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THURSDAY, MARCH 17TH, 2011

Barry man claims he is destitute after Job Centre bars him from jobseeker's allowance

A young Barry man claims that being disqualified from getting Jobseeker's Allowance and an emergency loan has left him destitute.

James Brigham, aged 21, said that if his mother had not temporarily taken him in, he would have not

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

been able to even eat. He said: "I feel angry and upset and let down by the system."

Recently, Mr Brigham split up from his girlfriend, who lives in Cardiff, and for a period of time "dossed on friends' sofas" in Barry.

He says the reason for the disqualification was that he had not done enough in terms of looking for a job.

"At the job centre I told them that I had no stable address and that I was dossing on friends' sofas in Barry – they weren't interested."

"I told them that I had applied for two main jobs, and gave them the number of a company which I had applied to. I also told them I had gone into stores in Cardiff looking for work and gave them the internet job site I use."

Desperate for cash, James applied for a 'crisis loan' over the phone last Friday, but after a 45-minute wait was denied assistance – again because of the 'sanction'.

He has moved back temporarily with his mother Pamela, her husband Michael, and their four children. The household relies on benefits.

Pamela, who is expecting a child in August, said: "He has been betrayed by the system. We are struggling to cope and by accommodating him it means all the family will have to have less."

"I don't understand why he got the sanction when he had looked for work. How is he supposed to eat? If they at least gave him half his benefit, he would be able to buy food."

The family is particularly frustrated that the Coalition Government is



ABOVE:
James Brigham.

spending billions in foreign aid when people in this country are struggling to cope themselves.

The British Department for International Development's overall budget amounts to £7.8 billion, but is unaffected by the government's deficit-cutting measures.

Pamela said: "This country helps Third World

countries, but it won't help my son. What is he supposed to do? Fly over there to get a bowl of rice to survive?"

James's 17-year-old sister Reanne has emailed the Houses of Parliament to explain her brother's predicament.

She wrote: "We rang the solicitors in order to seek advice as to what we should do. My mother receives benefits. There are six of us living here and my mother is four months pregnant. She cannot afford to support him on her benefits."

"We have offered him a few nights on the sofa, but don't have the room to keep him here. We were told by the solicitors that they are restricted from giving us advice."

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 5)



ABOVE: Not the usual school attire for these All Saints pupils – turn to page 14 to find out why...

Elderly pedestrian 'critical' following a street collision

AN 83-year-old woman pedestrian remains in a critical condition in the University Hospital of Wales, following a collision at Broad Street, Barry, on Saturday evening.

An investigation has been launched and police are anxious to talk to any witnesses.

The incident took place at 6.23pm on Broad Street near the junction with Miskin Street and Harbour Road.

A police spokesman explained: "A grey

Volkswagen Passat driven by a 53-year-old man was travelling along Broad Street when

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 5)



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Litter culprits?

PICKED up another load of litter this morning from our newly-cleaned footpath and from behind the bench on The Limes corner in Cowbridge.

Say what you like, and it is by no means only them, but litter is always worse when the children are back in school. What this says about the schools themselves I am not sure, (Name and address supplied)

Prisoners and a right to vote

OUR Vale MP, Mr Alun Cairns, states in The GEM that it is "simply wrong" to allow prisoners the right to vote - he seems very sure of the moral high ground.

Had he stated that it was "simply wrong" to kill, steal or commit adultery, it might be regarded as a less subjective judgment.

As a Christian, however, I cannot agree with him that it is "wrong" to encourage prisoners to take an interest in society.

You cannot pick and choose'

I WOULD be grateful to be allowed to reply to the detailed letter from Alun Cairns MP (The GEM, March 10) on the European Court of Human Rights' judgment giving voting rights to prisoners.

Judge-made law is just as much law as any other kind, and if you believe in the rule of law, and not anarchy, then as a law-abiding citizen you cannot 'pick and choose' which you obey.

Too late for vote?

WE recently received a leaflet from members of the Vale Labour group on the Vale Council, advising tenants to be cautious about the way we vote concerning the possible transfer of council-owned properties to the newly-formed Heritage Coast HA, if the balloted tenants choose to do so.

What annoyed me is that these were sent out after the ballot had been sent to tenants.

Why, if they were looking after tenants' interests, did they leave it so late to take action?

It seems little action was taken by the Vale Labour party to influence the vote, and this warning letter was just tokenism.

PH Jones, Barry

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Good to cycle along lanes in the Vale, free of litter!

CONGRATULATIONS to the Vale Visible Services who have cleared one of our lanes so that it now looks immaculate.

There were only five pieces of newly-dropped litter along a three-mile stretch. They have also cleaned the part of the Llantwit to Wick road that was particularly bad, and I notice that they are now working on the lane to Atlantic College.

It is really uplifting to cycle, walk or drive along lanes that are completely litter-free.

I also include thanks to the Llantwit Karting Centre who have cleaned some, although not all, of the litter against the fence that surrounds their entrance.

I should also like to thank Mrs Baker of Ewenny, who quite rightly castigates litter louts or morons, as she describes them. Unfortunately, they will

'Path to beach a great asset'

I DON'T know what all the fuss is about at Llantwit Major - the new path is a great improvement and will really come into its own in wet weather.

Prisoners are rightly punished by incarceration, and often lose their jobs (if any); their marriages; their homes and their reputations.

Is it necessary to go on punishing them even more? Is this political sadism?

If other European countries can allow the vote without fuss, why can't we in Britain?

Christopher Short, Barry

road!

I wonder, too, what these objectors would have said if they were around when the road was first put in?

No doubt they would have been digging in just like Swampy.

But what an asset that has turned out to be.

The only disadvantage I can see is that dog poo is visible from about 10 metres away - yes, it's started already.

Robert Davies, Llantwit Major.

The true heart of Llantwit Major!

WHO and when was it decided that 'the heart of Llantwit' was in the location of the retail area?

Llantwit Major is a historic town and as such, shouldn't the heart of the town be in the area of Llantwit with the most history attached to it i.e. the 'old' part of Llantwit Major where the Old School, Cenotaph, St Illtud's church and Town Hall are situated?

Over the years, any celebrations and organized events were based from this area, which may then have overflowed into the top area of town.

If a bigger area was required i.e. the carnival, then the Rugby Club field was used.

However, the carnival procession would always start in the old

part of Llantwit Major. I think it is about time the residents and businesses from the old part of Llantwit Major reclaimed this and future events, such as the Victorian fayre day.

Christmas lights etc should return and be mainly focused in this area - rather than the soulless parasitical area where they are currently placed.

This brings me to another point. Where were all the St David's Day flags/bunting/celebrations in Llantwit Major?

Are we forgetting that we are in Wales?

It appears that there were only two establishments that made an effort - The Old White Hart and Illtud's 206.

Both of whom I might add are situated in the true heart of Llantwit Major!

S Thomas, Llantwit Major

always be with us in our diverse but democratic society.

With our funds available to the council via the council tax, we have the resources that enable the council to keep our environment clean within their financial constraints.

Of course, another strategy is to have a massive campaign against litter from national government level, including expensive advertising campaigns and huge fines imposed by a vigilant police force.

In these excruciatingly stringent times, I doubt whether the latter solution will be an option.

One further request to the council. Please look at the rat run from Llantwit Major to the Old Post as I cycled it last week-end and the litter strewn along the road was appalling.

David T Jones, Llanmaes

No surprises after the Referendum!

I WOULD like to extend my thanks to all those who voted No in the recent Welsh Assembly referendum campaign.

I think that those who did will already have been horrified to see the indecent haste (within 48 hours of the result becoming known) with which a supposedly 'tidying-up' exercise has become acclaimed endorsement of the Assembly's past record".

We already have the Yes campaign's leading proponents clamouring for 20 more taxpayer-funded AMs, scrapping of the Welsh Secretary's position in the UK cabinet, a separate judicial system, and as was revealed in last week's

GEM, Jane Hutt's ongoing talks with the Treasury about tax raising and borrowing powers for the Assembly.

What a surprise that all these matters were denied during the Referendum campaign.

It must be fairly obvious to all, that 'easier' law-making powers will have absolutely no effect on a disastrous Welsh health policy, a floundering Welsh education system or economic policy.

The law-making mechanism argument is, and always was, a red herring to deflect public attention away from the unacceptably catastrophic performance of the current Welsh Assembly's policy decisions on behalf of Wales.

Kevin Mahoney, Barry (UKIP Vale of Glamorgan)

More bins, please!

I CAN report that no litter seems to be escaping from the bin at Nell's Point, despite windy conditions.

Can we please have similar bins on Friars Point?

The council used the weather as an excuse for not having them there, but I think that excuse emanated from a farmer's field! Mike Dunn

Barry as it used to be

A NEW DVD documentary titled 'Barry and The Island' by local film maker Michael J Moore should strike a chord with those of the community who view it.

The film highlights well-remembered landmarks in these areas which have or are being lost, together with interviews from local residents whose comments

might just echo the thoughts of many.

It seems Barry has now become just a place to live, having lost so many amenities.

An opportunity to showcase the film at the Theatre Royal cinema, had it been open, would have been perfect recognition; but at least the DVD is available to purchase and deserves to be viewed by as many of the community as possible.

Paul Sutton, Barry

Thanks to Bryn Hafren school!

I WOULD like to thank the students of Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School after my recent visit there as the Vale of Glamorgan youth champion.

town, which is a concern I share.

More should be done to encourage a cinema provider to come to the town.

There are so many young people and their parents who now have to pay huge sums of money to use cinemas in Cardiff or Bridgend.

I had a great afternoon at the school and I would like to thank the staff and students who made me so welcome.

Coun Chris Elmore (Councillor for Casteland ward, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan youth champion)

Tenants and opt-out vote

RECENTLY, I attended the housing scrutiny committee of the Vale Council and was shocked to hear that if council tenants vote no in the stock transfer ballot that the council actually has a credible retention plan.

Isn't it strange how this hasn't been put out into the public domain?

It was only when members present questioned the officers about the proposed stock transfer, that officers mentioned the Vale Council had a contingency plan if the vote result is 'no'.

I would, therefore, suggest to those who are voting this month to think twice before casting their vote. The first

point is that if tenants vote to transfer to another landlord, they cannot come back.

The second point is that there have been a lot of promises made by Heritage Coast homes, and I ask at what cost?

It must be pointed out that despite a one-sided view put out by the Tory-run Vale of Glamorgan Council for tenants to transfer out, there is a viable fallback position in the event of a no vote within the housing revenue account for the next 30 years, along with a retention strategy.

This means council tenants can actually remain in the safe hands of the council and say no to risky stock transfer.

Coun Richard Bertin, (Independent Member, Vale Council)

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK...

• WE reserve the right to edit all letters. Please keep them brief and address them to: The Editor, gem@tindlenews.co.uk

Gem Newspapers Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 24)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Portchapel. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
17 Thur	04.09	8.7	16.43	8.9
18 Fri	05.02	9.5	17.29	9.7
19 Sat	05.50	10.2	18.09	10.3
20 Sun	06.33	10.6	19.00	10.7
21 Mon	07.20	10.8	19.42	10.6
22 Tues	08.01	10.5	20.21	10.3
23 Wed	08.44	10.2	20.59	9.9
24 Thur	09.24	9.7	21.39	9.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

'MY FEAR IS SOMEONE WILL GET HURT' Councillor demands action on Dock View Road railings

A local councillor has demanded that railings alongside a pavement on Dock View Road must be replaced "urgently" in the interests of public safety.

Gaps have opened up in the tarmac, and Coun Chris Elmore fears the footpath could collapse leading to an injury.

Coun Elmore said: "The whole situation is totally unacceptable.

"I have tried over the last three years to work with different groups like the Castledale Renewal Team and now the Barry Regeneration Board, to get these railings replaced and that work is still ongoing – but the railings are now too dangerous not to be replaced immediately, and the owners must take responsibility."

The damaged section of fencing is opposite Castledale Street. A red warning barrier has been erected alongside the affected railings.

Coun Elmore has made

representations to the Vale Council's cabinet member for visible services, and has been informed that the council's legal team will be discussing the matter with the parties who own the land.

The pavement in question is used by people in the Castledale community and Barry Dock train station commuters..

Coun Elmore added: "I have received an assurance from the cabinet member responsible that he will do everything he can to deal with this issue as quickly as possible.

"My fear is that the

footpath will collapse completely and someone will get hurt."

In a council reply to

Coun Elmore, cabinet member Coun Geoff Cox

explained:

"From office records, it appears that the land adjacent to the adopted highway along Dock View Road is, in parts, controlled by the British Rail Residuary Board, with the remainder falling under the control of Network Rail."

"The back of the footpath and its base is the council's responsibility, but it can be argued that the poor state of the railings has caused the subsidence."

"Our legal department will be discussing the issue of liability with both parties."



The town council's cemetery 'open day' is full of surprises

THE 'open day' held at Barry town cemetery on Saturday, March 12 proved a success, with people travelling from far afield.

RIGHT:
The Mayor of Barry, Coun Karl Kuhnell said there had been surprises for some of the people seeking information.



from Pendine in west Wales."

Coun Kuhnell said there had been surprises for some of the people seeking information on relatives.

He said: "The woman from Pendine, for example, discovered that she had a deceased brother."

The event started at 10am and went on until 3pm when people were

still arriving. Another open day is likely to be held in another six months.

Mr Keith Greenway has kindly been in touch with The GEM to point out that Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery is the location of many sailor graves and memorials and that the first burial in 1889 was that of a foreign seaman by the name of William Marra. Mr Marra died at the age of just 18.

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Spring Fayre Update...

Garwnant Centre, Brecon National Park
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Mercure Holland House, Cardiff City Centre
Sunday 10th April 2011, 11.00am - 4.00pm
New House Hotel, Cardiff
Sunday 17th April 2011, 11.00am - 4.00pm
The Parc Hotel, Cardiff City Centre
Sunday 8th May 2011, 11.00am - 4.00pm
Wales Millennium Centre Exhibition
Sunday 15th May 2011, 11.00am - 4.00pm
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New multi-million pound school is (officially) opened!

THE official opening of the new Cowbridge Comprehensive School building took place last week as pupils cut a giant red ribbon!

A ceremony was held at the school to mark the special occasion, with the youngest and eldest pupils invited to ceremonially cut the ribbon.

The state-of-the-art school, jointly funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and the Vale Council, opened its doors to students in September 2010.

It was decided that the official event would take place once pupils and staff had had a chance to settle in.

The headteacher at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Mrs Margaret Evans, welcomed guests to the "fabulous building", saying: "We are now quite settled in our new home and are appreciating more and more the benefits and opportunities afforded by our new surroundings."

"Everyone who visits us is struck by the calm and purposeful atmosphere and the very clear

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

statement which the accommodation makes about the value we place on learning and on our young people.

"This is a building which welcomes its users, which inspires us and respects our needs, ambitions and aspirations.

"It's especially fitting that today students are at the forefront of our opening ceremony. The school is for them and for those that follow in future years."

The new Cowbridge Comprehensive consists of a mix of new build and refurbished buildings. Features include a new dining hall, main hall and drama studio, as well as all-weather sports pitches and an impressive indoor sports hall and dance studio.

Coun Gordon Kemp, the Leader of the Vale Council, paid tribute to the hard work and dedication shown by all involved in the major project.

He said: "I'd like to give thanks, not only to

Mrs Evans and staff at the school, but to the governors, Vale Council officers, contractors and

all the others who've worked so hard to deliver this fantastic school - it really is a great achievement."

Coun Tony Hampton, cabinet member for education and lifelong learning, added: "The provision of this outstanding new school at Cowbridge was the first priority in an ambitious school investment strategy.

"The next scheme on the horizon is the Penarth Learning Community, which will see the replacement of St Cyres Comprehensive School and the Vale's Special Schools with two new adjoining schools with extensive community facilities.

"This will be followed by the Llanwit Learning Community, which includes a replacement for Llanwit Comprehensive School. We are grateful for the financial support provided by the Welsh Assembly Government to date and look forward to further assistance in the future."

The eldest girl at the school, Olivia Hulme, and the youngest boy, William Smith, were given the opportunity to declare their new school open by cutting the specially-made ribbon, created by the school's GCSE textiles department.

Olivia said: "It was a massive honour to be asked to cut the ribbon and I feel really privileged," while William added: "It was a really proud moment that I'll carry with me for the rest of my life".



ABOVE: The new-look Cowbridge Comprehensive School is declared officially open by pupils Olivia Hulme and William Smith (front), with Coun Tony Hampton; Coun Gordon Kemp and head-teacher Mrs Margaret Evans. (PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK).

Barry man recognised as 'Researcher of Year'

PLAID CYMRU parliamentary researcher Dr Ian Johnson from Barry, was awarded Crossbench and Other Parties' Researcher of the Year at the prestigious Dods Parliamentary Researcher of the Year Awards.

Dr Johnson, who is Plaid's candidate for the Assembly in the Vale, received the award in recognition of his role in supporting Plaid Cymru's three MPs, Jonathan Edwards, Elfyn Llwyd and Hywel Williams.

The judges said they were impressed by the role Dr Johnson played in drawing attention to a loophole in the housing account revenue subsidy scheme that reportedly takes £100million from Wales each year. Judges also highlighted his success



Dr Ian Johnson is congratulated by the Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow. in obtaining support from the Labour benches on an amendment to the 'Fixed Terms Parliament Bill'.

STEPHENSONS of BARRY

Spring into Spring with a Healthy Start...

Local Greengrocer Wayne Adams of Stephensons of Barry has started a new **FREE Home Delivery Service in and around the Vale.**

Stephensons, based on Holton Road in Barry's Town Centre



has been serving the Barry Community for the past 20 years, Wayne has started the free home delivery service in addition to his busy High Street Shop to provide quality Fruit, Veg, Dairy and now meat products to the Vale and surrounding areas. Stephensons offers the opportunity to purchase good quality seasonal fruit, vegetables, salad and stir fry bags for only £2.50 per bag. All orders placed by 5pm will be delivered the next day.

If you wish to try Stephensons new Fresh Fruit, Veg and Dairy service then why not give Stephensons of Barry's friendly staff your order and they will deliver it straight to your door,

Wayne Adams says, "We have had a tremendous response since we started some 5 weeks ago and we are already getting repeat orders from very satisfied customers, I would just like to say a big thank you to all the residents in the areas we have visited over this period for all their support and purchases. It is hard times for us all, and starting a new business is no easy task but we have had a tremendous response. Again from all at Stephenson's Home Delivery a BIG THANK YOU.

We are visiting your local area during the week; Please see below for your area, day and time.
If we are not in your area then please give us a call.

Monday evening, Colcot 5pm to 8pm – Tuesday day, Holm View 12 noon till 2pm

Tuesday evening, Barry Island 5pm till 8pm

Wednesdays, day and evening Gibbonsdown 12 noon till 2pm and 5pm till 8pm

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SOCA in Civic Offices demo

THE Save Our Cinema Association is holding a peaceful demonstration outside the Civic Offices in Holton Road tomorrow Friday, March 18.

SOCA chairman Bob Armstrong explained: "We believe that if the Theatre Royal is not preserved as a cinema, we will be left without one in Barry for years to come."

"Plans for a cinema and other facilities on the Island appear to have lain dormant, so we have no faith it will happen there."

The group, which is meeting up at 3.30pm, hopes up to 150 people will attend to show the strength of local feeling.

Hafod Care argues that the Theatre Royal site is the ideal location to build an Extra-Care facility comprising of 42 flats and generic facilities for the elderly.

School's welcome

JENNER Park School recently organised a social evening for pupils and their families.

Staff laid on a hot dog supper for the children and their families, who joined in games of Bingo with fun prizes. The evening was well attended and everyone had a really good time.

This was one of a series of social activities being organised by the school, to support the local community and get families more involved.

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Barry resident chased thieves after burglary

A YOUNG man in his bare feet chased two burglars after his home had been raided in Barry, the Cardiff Crown Court was told.

The pair escaped but they were later arrested after being spotted on CCTV.

Dean Maxwell (29) and Shane Baird (42) both of Barry, were each jailed for 22 months, after admitting charges of burglary and stealing from a vehicle.

by AJ
SICLUNA

Judge Philip Richards said they had committed crimes for "big gain" involving an occupied house. They had also stolen keys and intended stealing cars.

The burglary, he said, had aggressive features. Prosecutor Gareth James said that at about 4.20am on December 8, Ben Hartre and his family were asleep at their home in Hawthorn

Avenue when they heard a noise.

They then saw a person going through the front door towards a vehicle parked in the drive. They both shouted and two people ran off, chased by Mr Hartre.

He got close to them and was able to describe their clothing.

Items they had stolen were found on their escape route. They had also stolen property from a parked car, said Mr James.

They got into the house through a rear door.

Maxwell denied being involved and Baird said "no comment".

Peter Sharp for Maxwell, said: "I have to acknowledge the offences were serious, and there was a psychological impact on the victims. No damage was caused and the loss was low."

"Both men were high on drugs and the offences were haphazard and opportunistic. Maxwell had been using amphetamine and valium in large quantities."

David Pinnell for Baird, said: "These were bad offences of their kind. The motive was to obtain money for drugs."

Man's allowance cut

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)
She went on: "He has no money and hasn't eaten for three days. It kills me that I am having to write this email, and to see my older brother go through this terrible."

On Monday this week, Mr Brigham received a letter from the Job Centre saying the minimum "the law says you need to live on" is £51.85, so he is puzzled as to why he isn't being paid that amount.

Having no money also means that he is unable to visit his 18-month-old son Dafydd, who lives with his former girlfriend in Cardiff.

Mr Brigham is applying to Home4U accommodation and says he is desperate to get a job.

He added: "I wanted to speak out so

that people know what is happening out there. I know that there are a lot of people who are in a similar position to me."

The GEM sent Mr Brigham's comments to the Department for Work and Pensions.

For legal reasons, the department says it is unable to go into the details of individual cases, but a spokesperson insisted: "In order to claim Jobseeker's Allowance, a person must first sign an agreement saying they are available for work, and will actively seek employment every week."

"If they do not fulfil their part of the agreement, their benefit can be stopped."

"Job Seeker's Allowance is there to support people out of work, while they search for their next job. It is not a lifestyle choice."

Witnesses sought after road collision

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The spokesman added: "Ambulance service staff were quickly on the scene and provided treatment to the casualty who was then taken by ambulance to University Hospital Wales where she was treated for serious head, back, chest and leg injuries."

The woman's condition is described as "critical".

The police spokesman added: "We are appealing for any witnesses to contact us."

"We would like to speak to any person who witnessed the collision or who stopped to provide assistance and who has not yet given their details."

Broad Street was closed for approximately two and a half hours while the police conducted initial investigations.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the South Wales Police Roads Policing Unit in Gwaelod y Garth, Cardiff on 02920 633438 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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(Barbecued pieces of chicken cooked with fresh garlic, mustard, chilli sauce and served with crisp red chillies)	
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(Slightly hot sauce, cooked with onions, green peppers and fresh green chillies)	
Mango Chicken (Mild)	£6.15
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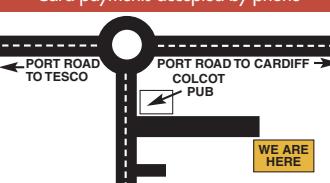
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Electrification should include a Vale rail line – says Assembly candidate

AN Assembly candidate has called for the electrification of the railway line in the Vale, to improve the area's carbon footprint.

Following an announcement that the London to Cardiff railway would be electrified and the UK Government would consider the business case for electrifying the Vale and valley lines, Dr Ian Johnson told The GEM: "If we were to electrify the Vale and valley railway lines then

by TIM CHAPMAN

we would have a greener public transport system.

"It makes economic and environmental sense for a continuous electrification programme so that when the London to Cardiff line is completed, the engineers can get straight on with electrifying the line in the Vale, rather than waste time and money stopping and then starting again.

"The UK Government has responsibility for

track development, but has left Wales behind. At the moment, Wales is alongside Albania and Moldova in not having any electrified track.

"An electrified railway in the Vale would be good for the environment by cutting our carbon footprint."

Electric supply has a better power-to-weight ratio than on board power systems such as diesel or steam, and also means a lack of fumes, less noise and less maintenance on the engines.

The Vale MP Alun Cairns said he believed the case for electrifying the key commuter lines to Barry Island and Penarth was a strong one, and that if it went ahead it would bring faster acceleration, greater comfort and greener travel.

He said: "It's now up to the Welsh Assembly Government to work with the Transport Minister and his team, to develop a full business case for this project to go ahead within the next rail investment control period beginning in 2014."

Tenth anniversary lecture remembers women's champion

ON March 19, the 10th anniversary of the Dorothy Rees memorial lunch and lecture will be held in Mount Sorrel Hotel Barry, at 12noon.

Each year, we meet and listen to a woman speaker who has achieved much in her particular discipline. We have had novelists, scientists, historians, politicians.

There have also been women who have given much time and energy in working with women in the third world, with the disabled and with victims of domestic abuse.

Each speaker has been inspiring in her own way.

This year, the speaker will be Nia Griffiths, MP for Llanelli, and shadow minister for business and innovation in the Labour shadow cabinet.

We also celebrate other women who in earlier years achieved much; for example, Elizabeth Philips Hughes, who pioneered women's education in Cambridge and now has Hughes College named after her.

On retiring, she came to Barry and founded the first Workers Educational Association classes in Gladstone School. These were popular with working people who had left school at

13 years to earn a living and wanted to widen their learning. Also Grace Williams, who was a pupil of Vaughan Williams, and became one of the leading British composers of the 20th century, and Hilda Price, who became a qualified aircraft fitter during the Second World War, subsequently training as a nurse.

She was a convinced communist and passionate trade unionist campaigning for women's rights all her life.

Dorothy Rees trained as a teacher at Barry Women's Teacher Training College. It is easy to forget the importance of that institution founded in 1914.

This was a time when it was rare for working class men and women to enter higher education. University was beyond the reach of all but a few in south Wales, but the development of the teacher training colleges gave the opportunity of advanced learning to many from poorer homes.

Her father was a docker and both she and her brother Gwyn attended teacher training institutions.

Dorothy Rees got to the House of Commons and to chair the Welsh Joint Education Committee where she promoted the cause of girls' education throughout Wales.

Her two preoccupations as a politician were education and housing, and the provision of houses that were fit for ex-servicemen and their families to live in.

Her maiden speech in the House of Commons was about the need for good housing: Sixty-one years on and we still have huge waiting lists. I wonder what she would say?

Tickets available on 01446 740275.

Margaret Alexander

Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc eisteddfod

ENILLYDD Tlws y Cerdor eleni oedd Megan Roberts o lys Buddug.

Derbyniodd Megan Roberts y tlws an ei chyfraniad cerddol i Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc ar hyd ei hamser yn yr Ysgol. Mae Megan wedi canu, chwarae'r gitâr, canu'r piano a bod yn aelod fyddlon o gôr yr ysgol. Llongfarchiadau mawr iddi.

THE winner of the 'Musician's trophy' this year is Megan Roberts.

Megan received the trophy for her musical contribution to Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc during her time in the school. Megan sings, plays the piano and guitar for the school and has also been a faithful member of the school choir.

Bardic chair

'SEREN LACHAR' sef Lauren



LAUREN DAWE.

Dawe sydd o lys Llywelyn oedd y bardd buddugol, ac enillydd y gadair eleni.

Enw'r gerdd fuddugol oedd 'Nid fi oedd ar fai' a ddaeth i'r brig allan o nifer o gerddi arbening o dda. Rhoddodd Ms Ruth Lloyd, y benniad, gannolai aeth fawr i bob un o gerddi blywdym 6.

Aeth yr ail wobr i Alisha Watkins a'r drydedd i Megan Roberts.

THE WINNING poet was 'Seren Lachar' whose real name is Lauren Dawe, from Llywelyn house.

She won the first prize and the chair for her poem entitled "Nid fi oedd ar fai". The judge, Ms Ruth Lloyd, gave high praise to the work of every child in year 6.

Second place went to Alisha Watkins and third to Megan Roberts.

Pupils get into spirit of World Book Day

CHILDREN and Staff at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig joined in the World Book Day spirit as they chose to dress up as a character from their favourite Welsh book.

There were many wonderful costumes on display and the staff were thankful for the efforts of parents in dressing their children.

Several children chose to dress as familiar Welsh favourites Sali Mali, Jac y Jwc and Jac-Do others went as characters from the newly translated Roald Dahl classics.

Heledd Gruffydd, head of juniors said: "It really brought home their enjoyment of reading and it was lovely to see so many boys bringing in books,



Oompa-de-doo!

dressing up and enjoying the activities".

Teachers Mrs Marged Cross and Mr Matthew McAvoy moved around from classroom to classroom reading different stories to the children.

RJ

'What will this season bring for bees and me?'

NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

and I must exercise patience. What will this season bring about for the bees and myself? The queen-raising programme is certainly on the cards, and the classes for beginners will begin shortly.

These classes will provide a practical as well as theoretical experience for them, as well as hopefully launching an interesting and rewarding (sometimes) hobby.

The mite problem (Varroa) is still with us and the newcomers will be informed as to what they must do to manage their hives and combat this menace. Other exotic and much more damaging pests are on the horizon.

Established beekeepers are now being made aware of these and we, in our turn, must make the newcomers aware of them also.

In this world of global merchandising, it is all too easy to introduce alien species to areas where they would not normally be found.

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CHILL easterly breezes are holding the bees in check, but on days that are free of these cooling factors, the bees are out and can be seen returning with pollen.

All of the hives have come through the winter intact. The nucleus (small box of bees) are looking good, they are very active when conditions allow and I have given them a strip of the ready rolled icing just to help them along.

Just as soon as conditions allow, that is when we get into double figure temperatures and hopefully less wind, all the hives will be opened up and their condition and needs assessed.

Clean frames holding new wax will be inserted where needed. Older frames that have been in use for a couple of seasons, where the wax is looking much darker than others around them, will be put into my solar-melter (a wooden box with a double

glazed lid).

This solar device will be used

throughout the summer months

(hopefully hot) and will melt the

wax in these older frames.

The melted wax collects in a silicon

bubble rubber bread tin, and as the

evening sets in, the wax solidifies.

I can then open up the box

and remove this block of wax.

Should I need to, I can recycle

this wax myself but that which I

have from the previous season

will go with me to the beekeepers

spring convention at the

Royal Welsh Showground

(Builth Wells) on Saturday

March 26.

Here it can be exchanged for

wax in sheet form that is suited

to fit the various frames used

within a beehive. Suppliers of

beekeeping equipment attend the

convention and sell all relevant

items i.e., suits, smokers, gloves,

hives and so on.

For myself, I will be ordering

honey jars and labels, plus bins

and pieces to meet my needs for

the coming season.

As of yet it is a waiting game,

Fond tributes as Llantwit folk remember their family doctor

THE recent death of Dr Peter Thomas of Llantwit Major has prompted many personal tributes that have been sent to the GEM.

A common factor is the way that Dr Thomas touched the lives of so many local people, through his bedside manner and his medical skill – and we are delighted to publish them below.

However, the first contribution, appropriately, has been made on behalf of friends and former colleagues at the Eryl Surgery by Dr John Crimmins.

He remembers a man of extraordinary energy and curiosity, who packed a great deal more into his life than the average.

HIS many friends and former patients were sorry to hear of the recent death of Dr Peter Thomas who had served the communities of Llantwit Major, St Athan and Rhoose as a general practitioner from the 1950s up to his retirement in 1990.

Peter Thomas was brought up in Pontardawe, from a coal mining family background and attended local grammar school before gaining a place at the Welsh National School of Medicine.

After national service in the RAF, he settled into practice in the Vale and rapidly became a popular and integral figure in the area.

He epitomised everything good about being a family doctor combining medical excellence with care and compassion.

His involvement in the area certainly was not limited to his contribution as a GP though, and he was prominent in several other areas, serving as a town councillor and

being an active member of numerous clubs and societies.

Peter was a true polymath and as well as medicine, he had a great interest and love of history, languages and poetry.

His particular interests in history were medical and Welsh history. He published numerous articles and managed to combine his interests with studies of famous past medical men of Wales.

He was a fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners and was for many years the curator of the museum at that college.

In recognition of his work in the field of history of medicine, he was made an honorary fellow of the Faculty of the History of Medicine.

On a more local level, he was a frequent contributor to the Glamorgan History series of books.

Peter was passionate about the Welsh language and never missed an opportunity to converse in "the language of the gods". He did not restrict his interests to Welsh, though, and was an enthusiastic participant in events organised by the town twinning committee, both locally and in France and enjoyed practising his French.

His interest in language extended to both studying and writing poetry both in English and Welsh, and he contributed enormously to many 'Poems and Pints' evenings.

He had a lifelong interest in rugby. As a student, he had played in the Cardiff medicals rugby team with, among others, Dr Jack Matthews, who described Peter as having been a "formidable" forward; he subsequently played for Llantwit Major RFC.

He continued his association with the club throughout his life, acting as honorary medical officer for many years, and was until very recently a regular at the Rugby Club supper evenings.

Above all, though, Peter was a family man and was married to Dorothy, who predeceased him, for 60 years. Their sons, daughter and grandchildren were a continuous source of pride and pleasure to him.

Peter Thomas was in many ways a larger than life character and will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

For my part it was a privilege to have known him and an honour to have worked with him – and I am sure this is true of all the doctors, nurses and ancillary staff who were fortunate enough to share their working life with Dr Peter Thomas.

John Crimmins
GEM READERS' TRIBUTES

Mrs Sharon Jackson told The GEM: "He was a lovely man, so kind and caring and he knew everyone in Llantwit Major and who they were connected to.

"He came to Llantwit after being a doctor in the RAF and had little experience with women patients.

"I was the first baby he helped bring into the world!"

"Every time I visited him he would say: 'Let's see now, I came in January, and you were born in March.'

"He was a real family doctor."

Mrs Myrna Crook recalled: "Dr Peter Thomas' actions saved the life of my baby sister, Linda.

"It was a frosty winter morning in Wick village many years ago and Linda – at the time just nine months old – had been screaming all night, so we phoned for Dr Thomas.

"It turned out Linda had a burst appendix. Her life was in danger and every second counted as peritonitis had set in. She fell silent as her life ebbed away.

"It's only thanks to the quick thinking and dedication of Doctor Thomas that she is alive and well today.

"We were later informed that Linda was the youngest person on record at the time to survive the operation and even today it is extremely rare that a baby of nine months suffers from appendicitis.

"Months later, Linda was allowed home but cried as she left the nurses in Bridgend Hospital: by then she didn't recognise her own family.

"Whenever the family saw Doctor Thomas he always made time to discuss the event, explaining that on that day he had experienced a pre-

monition that something was seriously wrong!

Linda has gone on to be a healthy, active individual, becoming a Zumba fitness instructor and having a family of her own.

Mrs Sue Brew of Boverton remembered: "It was around Christmas day in 1980 when my three-year-old daughter Nicola was very ill.

"Dr Thomas came out – even though he was not on call – and he came back every day until she was better."

Diane Winstone (nee

Baldwin) remembered: "It was 60 years ago that Dr Thomas came into my life. I was six years old and it was the time of the polio epidemic.

"I can remember him coming to see me and he was so concerned that he took me to Bridgend Hospital himself for a second opinion!

"Over the years, he had a great deal to do with our family. When my mother was terminally ill, he came every evening for weeks to settle her down for the night. I will always

remember his ability to lift one's spirits with his amazing bedside manner."

There were other former patients who remembered his sense of humour. One resident told The GEM: "My brother-in-law went to see Dr Thomas to have his ears syringed – and he was terrified."

"As Dr T went to place the syringe in his ear, he passed out, fell off the chair and banged his head on the floor.

"He was taken to the waiting room, bandaged,

and given a cup of tea. It was something that we all used to laugh about whenever we saw Dr T."

Wendy Thomas recalled: "He could always see the funny side of things.

"My father went to see him with a blood sac on his neck, and Dr Thomas called out: 'Nurse, can you come in and hold this man's thingy!'

"It was something we would always laugh about whenever we saw him!"



Dr Peter Thomas

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Funds needed to help vulnerable people fight cases ‘CURB BARRISTERS’ LEGAL AID CHARGES’

THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, said this week there should be a cap on the hundreds of thousands of pounds earned by barristers from legal aid, to enable people to get funding to fight smaller cases.

In a question on the floor of the House of Commons, Mr Cairns highlighted the fact that some barristers earn hundreds of thousands of pounds in legal aid and that a cap would help the taxpayer.

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

Mr Cairns, who suggested the Justice Minister introduce a cap, argued:

“It cannot be right that some senior barristers earn hundreds of thousands of pounds...when some constituents are left without legal aid to fight smaller scale cases.”

Mr Cairns says he has a particular interest in community care and special educational needs, and explained that every week he sees or hears of cases where local authorities across Wales fail to meet their

Mr Cairns added that

he could not understand why such people were able to earn hundreds of thousands of pounds from the public purse, and had started a campaign in Parliament to change it.

Locally, Plaid Cymru candidate for the Assembly Dr Ian Johnson has expressed concern over the impact of proposed changes to the legal aid system, especially with the planned closure of the Vale Magistrates Court this December.

Dr Johnson said the Coalition Government recently ended a consultation on legal aid changes, and that the proposals represent “a severe cut in the services for which legal aid can be requested”.

He said: “I am very concerned that these proposed cuts to legal aid could leave many people without representation in court and lead to injustices.

“These proposed cuts include the right to support when dealing with issues of family law, immigration, housing and welfare benefits – all of which are crucially important for the people involved.” Dr Johnson concluded.

Message to Vale tenants over homes transfer... ‘It’s up to you!’

THIS month sees Vale Council tenants vote on whether their homes should transfer from council control to Heritage Coast Homes, a new, independent, not-for-profit housing organisation.

This is a decision for our tenants; all we ask is that they use their vote and they have until April 5 to do.

Transfer can only go ahead if that is what tenants want.

It can only happen if the majority of tenants who vote in the ballot, vote in favour.

If transfer goes ahead, Heritage Coast Homes would plan to deliver a programme of around £86 million of repairs and improvements to tenants’ homes and estates, bringing them up to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard. This would include new kitchens and bathrooms, new doors, and central heating.

Unlike the council, Heritage Coast Homes would also have a budget of £25 million to

spend on major estate design issues.

Significant service improvements are also promised to tenants by Heritage Coast Homes particularly in respect of tackling anti social behaviour. If you are a tenant, please use your vote.

Court closure

People across the Vale have been outraged to hear that the Vale Magistrates’ Court has been earmarked for closure.

This is a decision for our tenants; all we ask is that they use their vote and they have until April 5 to do.

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Unlike the council, Heritage Coast Homes would also have a budget of £25 million to

openning of the new school.

A ceremony was held to mark the occasion, with the youngest boy at the school, year-7’s William Smith, and eldest girl, year-13’s Olivia Hulme, proudly declaring their new school officially open with a ceremonial cutting of a ribbon, specially made in the school’s colours by its GCSE textiles department.

The fully fit-for-purpose school, jointly funded by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Welsh Assembly Government, opened its doors to students in September 2010.

It was decided that the official event would take place once pupils and staff had had a chance to settle in to their new, modern surroundings.

Headteacher, Margaret Evans, told me that the school is now quite settled in its new home and everyone is appreciating more and more the benefits and opportunities afforded by the new surroundings.

The council has decided to mount a legal challenge to the Ministry of Justice’s decision to close the court and we are demanding a judicial review.

New school

The court is an integral part of the Vale and we will do our utmost to protect its future.

New school

It was a pleasure to visit Cowbridge

Comprehensive last

week for the official



by Coun
GORDON KEMP
Leader of
the Vale Council

school hosted the launch of a month long celebration of religious education (RE) in Wales, ‘Celebrating RE’, which is the National RE festival for England and Wales.

The festival’s aim is to celebrate the value and importance of RE in schools.

The launch took place as part of the Welsh Association of Standing Advisory Councils for RE (WASACRE) conference, and delegates, including the Archbishop of Wales, were treated to a packed programme, with contributions by pupils from Stanwell, Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, St Cyres School and Evenlode and Albert Road primary schools.

Appeal for witnesses after man dies on M4

South Wales Police are appealing for witnesses following a fatal accident at about 12.35pm on Thursday, March 10 on the M4 eastbound between junctions 33 and 32.

A white Vauxhall Combo van, driven by a 62-year-old man, left the road, went onto the nearside embankment and overturned.

The driver, who was removed from the vehicle by passing members of the public, was treated at the scene by a doctor and paramedics. Despite their efforts, the motorist died at the scene.

The fire service were also in attendance to assist.

The police would like to speak to anyone who witnessed the collision, or who stopped to provide assistance, and who has not yet given their details.

The carriageway was partially closed for approximately two and a half hours while officers conducted initial investigations.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the South Wales Police Roads Policing Unit in Gwaelod y Garth, Cardiff on 02920 633438 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Good The Big Society?

Do you believe in schools? Think libraries are important? Believe that not everything can be counted in pounds and pence? We’d like to invite you to join a million voices.

We know that the Westminster Government spending cuts will damage public services and will put more than a million people (UK wide) out of work. The cuts will hit the vulnerable, damage communities and undermine much of what holds us together as a society.

In the Vale of Glamorgan, the Council are already currently consulting over the privatisation of leisure services. Not only will this have a devastating impact on those already working in leisure but anyone using their local leisure centre could find it closing or see a substantial increase in cost to use the facilities.

Libraries are another area under threat with the Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend, and Merthyr Tydfil all looking at axing fixed or mobile libraries.

The Westminster Government claim that ‘there is no alternative and that we are all in this together’, but we know that is just not the case. We know that it is completely unnecessary for the deficit to be eliminated in four years—we look at the deficit over the course of the last century, the current deficit is not particularly high. In fact, cutting too

fast and too deep will stifle economic growth and less tax revenue will be available. Furthermore, raising taxes such as VAT impact those on poor and middle incomes far more than those on higher earnings. Yet enormous bonuses are still being paid and those receiving them are not making a fair contribution.

We need to stand together and provide a voice for all those that have suffered unfairly at the hands of this UK government—those public service users that have seen reductions or closures to their public services, and a voice for those public sector workers that have lost their jobs. We need to show that we reject the argument that there is no alternative. Of course the recession has damaged our economy, but savage cuts will only serve to damage it further.

Put 26th March in your diary and ask your colleagues, friends and family to put it in theirs. Transport is being arranged by UNISON in the Vale of Glamorgan – contact us now to book your seat and March for the Alternative.



Show your support on March 26 and March for the Alternative. For details on travel arrangements to the March and to get involved in your local campaign or visit our website: www.unison.org.uk/26march or contact MFTA Wales@unison.co.uk. Tel: 029 2072 9453

March for public services 26 March

On 26 March thousands of people from all over the UK will march in London to speak out against the government’s savage and unfair spending cuts.

Join us with your colleagues, friends and family in speaking up for vital public services.

Register and find out more at action.unison.org.uk/march
Join us in UNISON. Call 0845 355 0845 now, or visit unison.org.uk/join

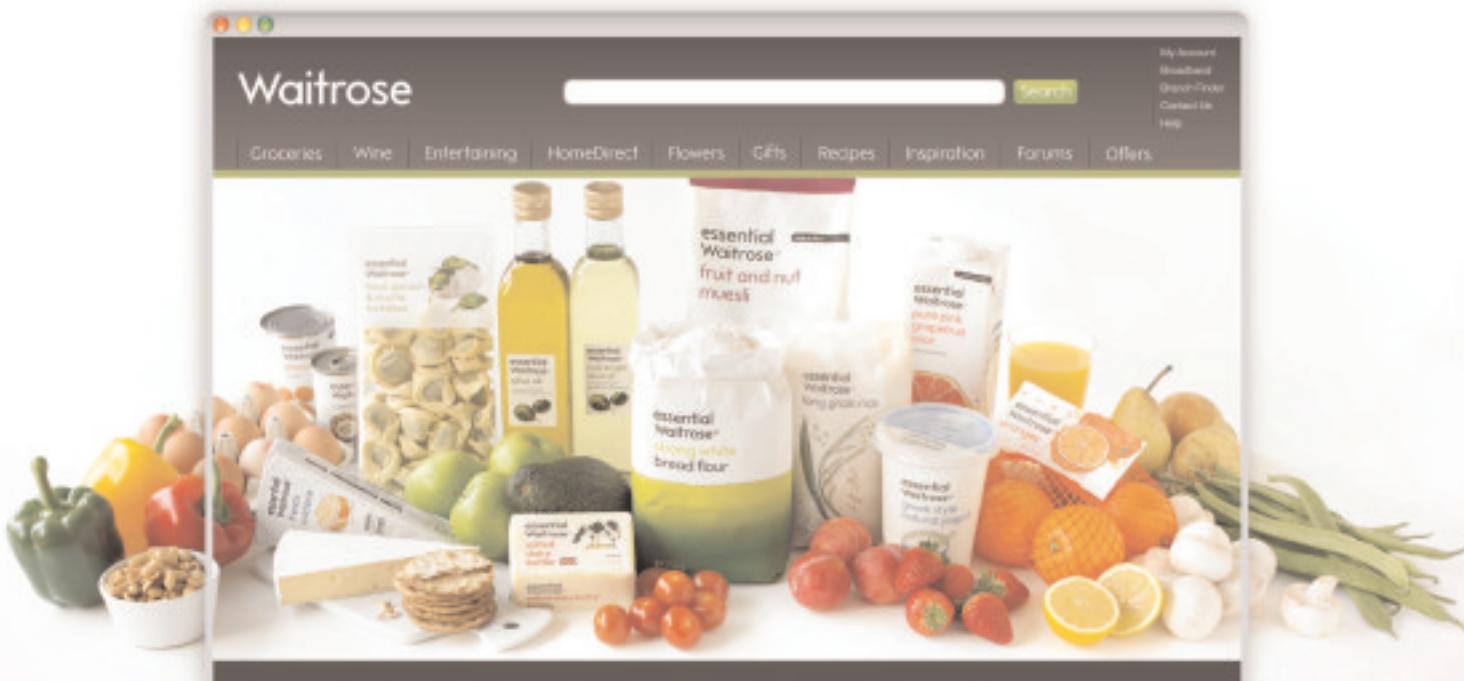
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Local car dealer pays out £10,000 costs after his 'series of offences'

A BARRY car dealer has been sentenced to a 12-month community order and ordered to pay £10,000 costs, for a series of offences connected with his vehicles.

Nasser Asfi (39) admitted eight charges before Vale magistrates of placing unsafe cars on the market, selling a vehicle to a woman without disclosing it had been an insurance loss, and he had been committed to the crown court for sentence.

Report by AJ SICLUNA

The Recorder, Paul Hopkins, told Asfi: "The public have the right to expect that cars available for sale are safe and road-worthy. Making those cars available for sale was extremely serious."

Asfi was also ordered to carry out 260 hours unpaid work and to pay £1,000 compensation to Hayley Porter of Avon, for selling her the vehicle and failing to indicate it had been an insurance loss.

Asfi was said to have convictions for 49 offences – including deception, handling stolen goods, driving offences, failing to keep accounting records, driving with excess alcohol, obstructing the police, perjury, and driving while disqualified.

Lee Reynolds, prosecuting on behalf of Vale Trading Standards, said Asfi committed the offences when running two premises in Barry known as Trade Price Cars UK.

He said that dealers were not allowed to place on the market unsafe products.

On May 14 last year, council officers and an engineer carried out inspections of a number of vehicles Asfi had for sale.

They discovered eight with defects.

A VW Lupo had a tyre below the legal limit, a fence section was damaged and distorted, and the majority of the frontal panels were misaligned.

A Peugeot 306, a Renault Clio, an MG ZS, a Peugeot 206, another Peugeot 306, an MG ZR and a Renault Megan also had many defects.

Mr Reynolds pointed out that Ms Porter had bought a Peugeot 206 from Asfi, which was a category D insurance write-off.

Had she known, said Mr Reynolds, she would not have bought it.

She paid £5,000 for it, but if the details had been revealed, it would have cost her £1,000 less.

Asfi's counsel David Pinnell said all the faults were rectified and the eight vehicles were not actually sold.

At the time, Asfi had 80 vehicles on his two sites and most of them had no faults.

"I am afraid I cannot go behind his bad record. He had a good business and stood on his own feet. He is the head of a large family. That business no longer exists."



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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

'Why these cuts have to be made'



I DO everything to ensure that my column in The GEM is not party political; as the MP for the area, I do all I can to ensure that I represent all people from the Vale, irrespective of their party views.

As a result, I am happy to question and criticise the government when I think they are wrong.

Last week, however, an advertisement was published in The GEM, which was launching a 'Vale of Glamorgan against the Cuts' group.

Therefore, I want to use this week's column to offer a balance to the claims that were made, not in a party way, but with a factual approach.

I hope this will help better inform people when they hear various claims from people of all parties.

In the first instance, we are currently paying £117m per day in interest on the national debt. This would be enough to build two new hospitals a day, or eight or nine new secondary schools a day.

The £42bn annual interest charge is more than we spend educating children and training young people at all our schools, colleges and universities across the UK.

Even repaying this interest charge

means that the national debt of £3 trillion remains untouched. It is also worth noting that there are significant private finance initiative payments that also need to be accounted for.

Such sums are so large, they are difficult to picture and comprehend.

Therefore, decisions have been made to cut public spending and to increase some taxes.

All individuals, families and businesses have to live within their means.

We cannot keep running up debts on the nation's credit card. We will go bankrupt if we do and then the cuts will be much more severe.

It is interesting (and frustrating!) to note that those who oppose cuts are also opposed to changes that will also help balance the books, such as – a cap on benefits, the increase in VAT, welfare reform that will make work pay, changes to child ben-

Opposing cuts could be a credible and respectable standpoint – but only if those individuals or groups say what else they would cut instead, or by how much extra and from whom they would increase taxes.

I haven't yet seen anyone or any group make a credible case.

Enjoy stunning sea views this summer..

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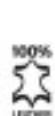
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Celebrating the Welsh saint's special day at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg



PUPILS at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg not only celebrated St David's Day on March 1, but the whole week at school was a celebration of all things Welsh and being Welsh.

Pupils from the sixth form had arranged a thrilling, fun-packed week of activities to celebrate our patron saint.

Pupils enjoyed folk dancing, singing, an eisteddfod, a question time panel and a highly competitive game of touch

rugby between members of staff and the sixth formers.

CORY'S CAP

FANTASTIC news for year-13 pupil Cory Allen and for Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

Cory won his first representative honours when he played for the Wales under-18 team against France under-18s in Saint Helen's, Swansea.

Cory is the first pupil from the school to win a rugby international cap. Congratulations and best wishes for the season.



Cory Allen.

No uniforms for Llanfair pupils on Book Day..!



ABOVE and BELOW:

The children of Llanfair Primary School spent two days out of their school uniforms recently. First they had St David's Day to celebrate, and then three days later they were dressing up to celebrate World Book Day. Two fun filled days were had by all.



Rotary speakers shine in Youth Speaks contest



Robin Tait, Leah Robinson, and Owen Young receive the runners-up award from Rotary District Governor Donna Wallbank.

IN the third round of the Rotary Youth Speaks debating competition at the Manor Hotel in Crickhowell earlier this month, Barry was represented by Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in the Juniors, and Bryn Hafren/Barry Comprehensive in the seniors.

Seven teams representing south Wales competed in the afternoon in the junior competition, with subjects as diverse as 'Violent Video Games Should be Banned' and 'Intelligent Life Exists Elsewhere in the Universe'.

After consideration, the judges gave first place to a team from Narbeth. The team from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg of Leah

Robinson (chairman), Robin Tait (proposer), and Owen Young (opposer) were second, with their topic 'This House Believes that Teenagers are Mad, Bad, and a Waste of Space'.

Robin's outstanding performance collected the additional award for best proposer in the junior competition.

The senior competition was held in the evening and Barry were represented by the team from the combined sixth forms of Bryn Hafren and Barry Comprehensive: Rosie Loup James (chairman), Hannah Parker (proposer), and Lili Beth James (opposer).

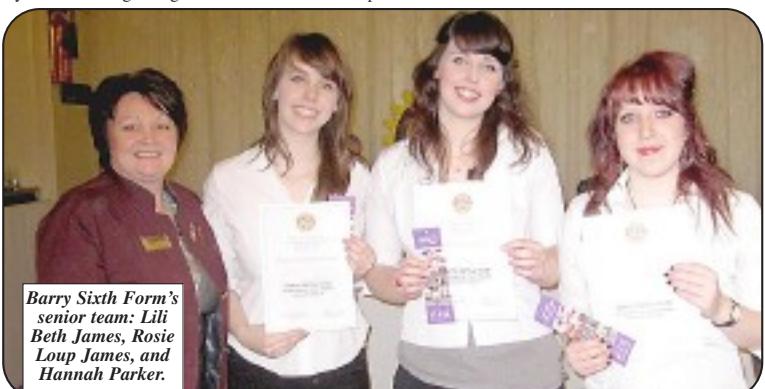
This was a very close-fought contest between nine excellent teams. In the end, the judges chose a team from Ysgol Gyfun Y Cymmer. A team from Llanishen were runners-up.

The Barry team gave an excellent performance with their subject 'This House Believes there is Nowt Wrong with Slang, Innit' and hopes were high, but sadly not rewarded.

Nevertheless, those supporters present were extremely proud of their professional performance.

The judges for both competitions, who included the Archdeacon of Brecon, Randolph Thomas, the Chief Inspector of Police for England and Wales, Sir Trevor Morris, and AM for Brecon and Radnorshire, Kirsty Williams, commented on the very high standards displayed.

In particular, they emphasised that every contestant was a winner and had distinguished themselves in a way that stood them in good stead for future careers.



Barry Sixth Form's senior team: Lili Beth James, Rosie Loup James, and Hannah Parker.

Bryn Hafren sixth form take part in Project Redesign



Bryn Hafren pupils with Dame Ellen.

BRYN HAFREN sixth formers, Lauren O'Connell, Christina Brown, Tegan Thomas, Ellie Carter, Hannah Yarr and Chloe Ladner, recently attended a workshop in Cardiff National Museum of Wales organised by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation.

A spokesperson reported:

"They had a wonderful day listening to the adventures of Dame Ellen and taking part in a challenge set by the foundation concerning sustainability."

"The workshops gave the students the opportunity to work collaboratively, to consult with representatives from five of the leading blue-chip compa-

nies in the UK and France, to present their work to Dame Ellen and to experience at first hand some leading-edge thinking about the circular economy."

"They were among only 1,000 students across the UK to have participated in this ground-breaking event."



Dewi Sant's day is celebrated at Llancarfan School

LLANCARFAN Primary School held an eisteddfod to mark St David's Day, with pupils dressing in traditional costume and taking part in competitions to celebrate Wales and Welsh traditions.

A spokesperson reports that there was a winner in each year group, and every entry received house points.

The first category was to make a 3D model or take a photograph based on a Welsh theme.

The winner was reception pupil, Reuben Hooley, who created a fantastic model of the Millennium Stadium.

Instrumentalists were invited to

play an accompanied or unaccompanied piece of music and year-6 pupil, Mali Ford, took first prize with her performance of *Y Blodau*.

Other pupils recited Welsh poems, danced or sang traditional Welsh songs. The winning pupil was Libby Williams from year-6 for her dance item.

The final competition was poetry writing with winning bard, Molly Connolly-Davis from year-6, taking first place for her poem about her love of Wales.

"A great time was had by all and the winning house was Baruc. Congratulations to pupils and staff for their part in making it such a successful and memorable day!"

Leigharne wins Welsh women's beauty award

LOCAL business owner, Leigharne Phillips, who runs The Hair Business in Cowbridge, has come out a winner in the 2011 Welsh Women Mean Business Awards.

Leigharne won the category 'Best Woman in Beauty' at the event, which took place on March 11, at the Vale Resort in Hensol with an audience of 300 guests.

Leigharne founded The Hair Business in Cowbridge in 1992, and it has grown from a staff of three to a team of 22.

Leigharne said: "After working abroad for a long time, I felt I had the experience to set up my own salon.

"The objectives for the business were clear from the beginning: to offer the best service with the best products, offer home-grown talent and create looks that give people the feel good factor."



Leigharne Phillips.

IN BRIEF

COWBRIDGE girl Anna Brewer will be appearing on the final edition of ITV's *Take Me Out* this Saturday, March 19 (the last show of the current series).

Anna (23) is a former C o w b r i d g e Comprehensive pupil.

THE British Heart Foundation is holding an Easter market at Cowbridge Town Hall on Saturday, April 2 (at 11am-3pm).

For more information, telephone 0292038 2408.

Tourism meeting pushes for more tourism in Vale

A GATHERING of like-minded business owners, primarily from the Penarth area, gathered at The Fig Tree Restaurant in Penarth to learn more about the tourism association for the Vale and partners.

The Vale Marketing Group, a not-for-profit association, run by volunteers from businesses in the Vale and surrounding areas, has been in existence for nine years and represents more than 100 local businesses.

Mandy Davies, chair of the VMG, said: "We need to work together to put the Vale on the map as a visitor destination. Visitor spend is essential to the wellbeing of the Vale."

The attendees were given a presentation on the association and a lively question and answer session followed, fielded by Mandy Davies and Coun Anthony Ernest.

"We are so fortunate.

The Vale is a unique destination. It has mountains behind, sea in front and a major city on its doorstep, as well as wonderful small towns such as Penarth and a rural landscape dotted with small villages. As a visitor destination it is hard to beat," Mandy added.

Local businesses are invited to join the VMG and learn more about the visitor economy. Further information meetings will take place in Barry, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge in the coming months and a pan-Vale event on April 12 at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge.

For full details, contact vmg@gardenofcardiff.com or Mandy Davies 01446 773171.

Chat (in Welsh) over coffee

LOOKING for the opportunity to practise your Welsh? Nothing else to do on a Saturday morning? Welsh speakers in Barry have started a coffee club in Barry Library, King's Square.

The club meets every Saturday morning between 9.30am-12pm, usually in the Phillip Jo'n Room (first floor). "Y Caffi Cymraeg" is for both fluent speakers and those starting to learn the language.

There is no particular structure to the mornings - come whenever you want and for as long as you want.

The club is organised under the aegis of Menter y Fro, the Welsh language promotion organisation for the Vale.

For more information, visit the Menter y Fro website: www.menteryfro.com

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All Saints pupils celebrate special day!



ALL Saints Church in Wales Primary School was a riot of colour on March 1, as the pupils dressed in Welsh costume for St David's Day.

The eisteddfod began with the results of the creative writing competition and the winner, Madison Asbury (year-6), was pronounced Bard for her wonderful Welsh-themed poem.

She was chaired in an authentic ceremony, led by Welsh co-ordinator Alison Williams and headteacher Richard Ware, and was presented (see photograph on right) with a love spoon and a certificate.

The rest of the day was a celebration of Welsh culture through music, poetry, dance and the results of the art, craft, costume and handwriting competitions.

As usual, the standard was high and the judges had a difficult job. Mr. Ware said she was delighted with the effort the children had gone to with their costumes and excellent competition entries.

He thanked staff and pupils for another successful and enjoyable celebration of Welsh culture and heritage.

NM



COFFI, CYMRAEG A CHLONC

Am gael y cyfle i ddefnyddio eich Cymraeg? Heb ddim byd arall i'w wneud ar fore dydd Sadwrn? Mae siaradwyr Cymraeg y Barri wedi dechrau clwb coffi yn Llyfrgell y Barri, King's Square, sydd yn ymgynnull bob bore dydd Sadwrn rhwng 9.30yb a 12 yp, fel arfer yn Ystafell Phillip John (ar y llawr cyntaf).

Mae "Y Caffi Cymraeg" ar gyfer siaradwyr rhwng a newydd fel ei gilydd. Does dim trefn ffurffiol ar y bore a chroeso i chi dddod ar adeg sy'n gyfleus i chi am faint bynnag a fynnoch.

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NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS AT THE GLADSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

A St David's Day and World Book Day double!

CHILDREN and staff at Gladstone Primary School have hardly had a chance to wear their uniform over the last few weeks, due to the dressing up involved in St David's Day and World Book Day.

On March 1, the playground was a sea of red! The school celebrated with a traditional eisteddfod, starting with Welsh folk dancing by members of staff.

Winners were announced in handwriting, art and poetry competitions and this year's year-6 bard was Charlotte Page. Charlotte's poem is as follows:

MY WALES

I own the Welsh dragon and this is my Wales. I own Castell Coch, I eat Welsh cakes and bara brith, And rugby is my sport

I sing the National Anthem, Some songs by Shakin' Stevens, If it wasn't for these wondrous things, I don't know what would become of me.

I own the beautiful landscapes, Of hills and mountain peaks, I remember the story of Gelert, That always makes me weep. I love playing the harp, I admire folk dancers, I adore eating lamb, oh the taste And daffodils, oh, those wonderful flowers, I could just spend my days in fields Picking them for hours and hours.

Please help me keep my Wales fine, healthy, clean

and safe, Cause I'm the Welsh dragon and this is my Wales And that's what I want you to know.

To celebrate World Book Day, children and staff dressed up as a character from a book. The day started with a whole school assembly on the importance of books and reading.

Throughout the day, each class carried out different reading activities, including 'Drop everything and read', buddy reading (where the older children read with the younger ones) and parents from year-2 were invited in to read with their children.

"How nice it is to see in Gladstone the love of reading beginning in nursery and going right through the school to year-6," said Kim Methven, language subject leader.

VALE PACT MEETINGS

GIBBONSDOWN PACT, Communities First Office, Aberaeron Close, March 25, at 6pm
DYFAN PACT, Barry Comprehensive School, March 29, at 6pm
BARUC PACT, St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Barry Comprehensive School, March 29, at 7.15pm
CASTLELAND PACT at the Docks Offices on Monday, April 4, at 7pm
LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT, town leisure centre, March 22, at 7pm
WENVOE PACT at Wenvoe Community Hall on Monday, March 28, at 7pm
RHOOSE PACT, Celtic Way Community Centre, March 29, at 7pm
STANWELL PACT, Stanwell Comprehensive School, March 25, at 7pm



Charlotte Page (year-6 bard) with Emily Tyrrell (second) and Jack Hilldrup (third).



ABOVE: Pupils pictured on World Book Day

St Athan planning report is published by Assembly

THE planning inspector's report into the now-stalled St Athan defence academy project has been published by the National Assembly.

The decision by Deputy First Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones to release the inspector's report on the St Athan development has been welcomed by Plaid Cymru's AM Chris Franks, and by the Conservative AM Andrew RT Davies.

The report (available on the Assembly website) runs to more than 70 pages and goes into detail on all aspects of the plan to create a Defence Technical

College (DTC) and an Aerospace Business Park (ABP) on the site.

Although the DTC has been shelved pending a Government decision on future training needs, the report looks closely at the changes that might still occur if a modified project should get the go-ahead.

In particular, planned compulsory purchase orders are discussed. Important areas identified are near St Athan and Llanwit Major, and at Gileston Old Mill on the B4265, and also at Weycock Cross on the northern edge of Barry.

Andrew RT Davies said: "The Minister's apparent reluctance to release these papers

until now has fuelled widespread concern in Llanwit and St Athan, and the information contained within the inspector's report will provide a welcome insight into the direction that the inquiry took."

He added: "The report should be seen in the context of the broader discussion around the developments on RAF St Athan and it is now high time for the Minister for Economy at the National Assembly to make clear the Assembly Government's intentions, or otherwise, as to the future of the Aerospace Park."

Chris Franks is also asking for more information in a number of areas. He said: "The

shape and size of the business park will have to change because the government scrapped the large-scale defence training development that was proposed at St Athan.

Many residents wish to know what the future of the site is. We all know that the UK Government has promised a further decision soon.

I have raised local concerns, particularly those raised by Llanmaes Community Council with the Deputy First Minister and Plaid Leader Ieuan Wyn Jones, regarding the possibility of a large-scale housing development."

'Fair deal' is an insult to our community

Trade unions and community groups throughout the Vale have united to campaign against unprecedented cuts that are sweeping the country.

The 'Vale of Glamorgan Against the Cuts' (VGAC) group is working to raise awareness of the impact that the cuts are having and will increasingly have within the local community.

VGAC is concerned about the long-term impacts that will arise within Cardiff and the Vale healthcare as a result of the £80 million shortfall that will arise from the April 2011 budget. With such a massive budget shortfall, coupled with the application of recruitment freezes in certain areas, the impact for patients could be catastrophic. VGAC is also alarmed that attacks are being

ADVERTISEMENT

child to travel to school safely, is being made to pay because and that level of safety is being put in jeopardy to save money. How can putting a price on a child's life be justified?

In Wales, we are experiencing a substantial budget reduction that has been handed to us by the ConDems. There is already an education funding gap of £604 per pupil in our education system - yet Cameron claims that Wales is receiving a 'fair deal'. Frankly, I don't think Wales is receiving anywhere near as

"It is shocking to see services such as school crossing patrols facing attack - it is the right of every single school

made on essential services and that so-called non-essential services such as leisure are under increasing threat of privatisation.

Jenny Griffin, VGAC spokesperson, said: "We are experiencing the biggest challenge for a generation. The Westminster government's

assault on the welfare state is

ideologically driven. They are

making a political choice to

cut Baby Bonds, Child Benefit

and Sure Start - and they now

have Disability Living Allowance and Incapacity Benefit in their sights.

"It is shocking to see services

such as school crossing

patrols facing attack - it is the

right of every single school

is being made to pay because of the mistakes made by the financial sector. There is £123 billion of uncollected, and evaded taxes that could be collected by the UK government - yet they would rather allow those less well off in society to take the pain. VGAC is working to bring these issues to the forefront. Cameron's 'Big Society' is all smoke and mirrors and we want the Vale community to be aware of the facts."

"The Vale of Glamorgan Against the Cuts campaign has launched a Facebook page under the same name. For information about events coming up, please contact our Facebook page or telephone 02920 729463."

(SEE THE UNISON ADVERT ON PAGE 8)

Skin Studio of Penarth

Skin Studio are launching their new 'AGE' and 'Blemish' range with Skin Ceuticals and are offering Glamorgan GEM readers a special discount to try our new treatments!

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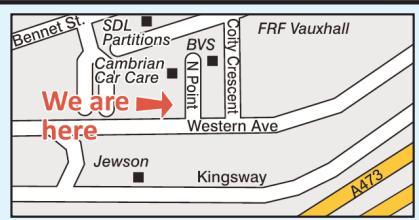


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TOM RECEIVES HIS BIG RACE CALL-UP



LLANTWIT Major Comprehensive School teenager Tom Rawlings yesterday represented Cardiff and Vale Schools at the National Cross Country Championships.

Dubbed the 'Golden Celebration' event, the championships were held in Brecon.

Fast-improving Tom (14) only took up running last year and recently at Blackweir came 56th out of 145 entries, and then ninth out of 150 at Trelai Park.

These performances led to his 'Cardiff and Vale' call-up.

Tom is something of an all-round sportsman – he also plays football for Llantwit Major under-14B, and rugby for the school.

ABOVE: Tom Rawlings from Llantwit Major represented Cardiff and Vale Schools at the National Cross Country Championships in Brecon.

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Healthy, thrifty and ethical way to eat!

ORGANIC vegbox company Riverford on Wash Farm believes that eating better quality, higher-welfare meat, less often and in smaller quantities is a healthy, thrifty and ethical way to eat this year.

"Meat and 10 veg" is our philosophy on how to eat meat in a sensible way and save money," says Chris and Alison Moruzzi, who deliver Riverford vegboxes in this area.

"Eat a small amount of good quality, ideally organic meat, and let the veg be the star of the show.

"It also makes good economic sense. A steak supper for six is likely to be painful on the wallet; a beef stir fry packed with vegetables is not."

Riverford has devised a fortnight's worth of meals that embrace the meat and 10 veg philosophy.

To find out more about organic veg and meat delivered to your door, visit www.riverford.co.uk.

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Also, you can read us online at: barry-today.co.uk, cowbridge-today.co.uk, llantwit-major-today.co.uk and bridgend-today.co.uk

Choir joins tennis club for charity concert

LOCAL ladies choir 'Belladonna' is teaming up with Cowbridge Tennis Club to put on a concert in memory of a former club member, June Donagh, who died recently.

The concert will be held in the hall at the Duke of Wellington pub, Cowbridge, on Friday, April 15. Doors open at 7pm, with the concert at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 each and are available from the Living Café, Cowbridge, Belladonna (Geoff Howells 07949 137112) and Cowbridge Tennis Club (Paul Wilby 01446 775928).

All proceeds from ticket sales and a raffle will go to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Bridge club: latest results

Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club – club night – Monday, March 7: 1st, John Henson and Barrie Waite 63.69 per cent; 2nd, Mary Moore and John Beard 62.20; 3rd, Joan Jenkins and Jane Brook 61.69; 4th, Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner 58.93; joint 5th, Mary Louther and Margaret Gough, and John Evans and Terry Reilly 51.30.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club – club night – Tuesday, March 8: 1st, Marian East and Pauline McAllen 62.70 per cent; 2nd, Ann Miller and Judy Springett 60.32; 3rd, Myrtle Hansard and Ann Bailey 59.13; joint 4th, Teri Pollard and David Wright, and Ann Hughes and Debbie Rosevear 58.73; 6th, Pat and Brian Swain 50.40.

BS



A 'fabulous eisteddfod' at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig



Aimee Carty and Lewis Bumford holding the winning shield for the Hafren house.

MARCH 4 was a special day for pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig, as they held their annual school eisteddfod.

All 430 pupils took part, either on stage or working on different topics in their classes and activities included reciting, singing, dancing, art work, handwriting and playing an instrument.

Manon William, a pupil from year-6, completed the 'double' by winning the crown and the chair for her poetry and her story writing.

It was a close-run event throughout, but eventually captains Lewis Bumford and Aimee Carty lifted the



Manon William received her crown and chair.

shield for the Hafren house for the first time.

Headteacher Mrs Owen, said: "It was a fabulous day and all the children gave a 100 per cent effort in everything that they did. We are all very proud of each and every one of them."

Dinas Powys WI celebrate St David's Day

DINAS POWYS WI's March meeting fell this year on St David's Day, so we celebrated our Patron Saint's day with the committee all attired in national Welsh costumes, complete with bonnets of varying sizes.

The committee baked Welsh cakes and bara brith, which were sold in aid of Bobath Children's therapy centre Wales.

The meeting was lively, and speaker Debbie Shawe entertained and informed us about 'scrapbooks' – not your usual scrapbooks.

She called her talk 'Scrapbooking' which she first became aware of seven years ago while in America.

Scrapbooking is apparently taught in American schools, and scrapbooks can be made in various shapes, designs and sizes, and are decorated page by page with flowers, buttons, lace and anything to make a page attractive.

Debbie's scrap books consisted of photographs of family members and celebrations of family occasions with

anecdotes about each photo, a novel way to record family history. She has agreed to give a workshop in May.

The competition was an item from a country beginning with the letter 'C' and it was won by Jill David with a small Chinese ornament decorated with her name.

The raffle was won by Pam Foreman. Each member was presented with a bunch of daffodils to commemorate St David's Day.

The newly-formed book club is getting under way, and members have been reading Madame Bovary. The walking group is going strong, and the next walk will be on March 31 in St Fagans.

The next meeting will be on April 5 at 7.30pm in the Lee Hall, when the speaker will be Mr Philip Bowen, who will talk about the Mary Rose. All are welcome.

BD

Spectrum on Song raised £1,072 for RNLI funds

BARRY fundraising branch of the RNLI would like to thank the Spectrum Singers, who took part in the entertainment on a magnificent evening, under musical director Stuart Edwards, wowing the audience with traditional songs, show tunes and comedy classics.

We would once again like to thank everyone for their hard work and time in putting on this fundraising event on our behalf and raising the magnificent amount of £1,072.

The audience were so receptive and appreciative.

I would also like to thank Chris, Judy and our fundraising mem-

bers. Without them, none of this would be possible.

We are not government funded, and it costs more than £123 million a year to run this organisation and meet the ever-increasing cost of crew training.

This is essential to ensure that our voluntary crews are kept safe while carrying out rescue missions 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with our fundraising.

If any other organisations in the town would be prepared to do a fundraiser on our behalf, telephone 01446 734888.

JENNIE WILLIAMS
Barry Fundraising Branch RNLI
Honorary Secretary

ART SOCIETY MEETING

THE Cowbridge Art Society meets today (March 17) at 7pm in Old Hall, High Street, when the opening competition for the Keith James trophy takes place.

This year the subject is 'Shadows' and will be adjudicated by Lloyd Rowe.

On March 24 (also at Old Hall) the society welcomes Tess Cooling, who will give a talk and practical on using the written word in paintings.

Non-members are welcome to attend both meetings.

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Barry Air Cadets on course to become leaders of the future!



Some of the cadets on a teambuilding exercise



Tackling a wing leadership course.

RECENTLY Sam Lazenbury and Rhys Thomas, Air Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron, attended the No 1 Welsh Wing leadership training course, held at Pontypridd TA Centre.

The aim was to improve and develop the cadets' leadership skills. The weekend was tough and challenging from start to finish. The cadets were taught many aspects of leadership, team working, leader responsibilities, and health and safety.

They undertook command tasks, physical training, swimming and various communication exercises. All the training was a blend of classroom lectures and practical situations.

At the end of the course, the cadets sat not only an examination, but also an interview by the course conducting officers.

After the course, Sam said: "It was an amazing and challenging course. I was really nervous at first. However, I

learnt so much which will help me to be a better leader."

The cadets thoroughly enjoyed themselves over a gruelling 48 hours and learnt many new useful skills in the process: skills useful in later life as well; something which the Air Training encourages and prides itself upon.

The cadets are now preparing themselves for a busy and challenging couple of months including, flying, gliding, shooting, sport, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and adventurous training exercises.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7-9.30pm, behind Adams Funeral Parlour. Phone 01446 747734 or email oc.372@aircadets.org for more information about joining or the Air Training Corps.

JASON HORTON
(Commanding Officer)

Story of 'The Great Escape' (German-style) in Bridgend

IN February, Mr Michael Clubb gave the first part of his talk on the history of the Welsh Arsenal at Bridgend.

At our last meeting, he returned to outline the later history of this complex and, in particular, of the huge accommodation facilities built to house more than 2,000 women workers needed to make munitions. In fact, by 1944, many of these had departed the accommodation provided and returned to their own homes, from which they travelled in daily.

After the Normandy landings on D-Day, accommodation in the UK had to be quickly found for the huge number of German prisoners that were being taken by the Allied forces, and Bridgend was able to supply this thanks to the departure of so many of its woman workers.

Adaptations were quickly made so that a large number of enemy prisoners could be housed, but in retrospect, it can be seen that little thought or care was taken in the conversion of this accommodation to prisoner-of-war use.

Several essentials seem to have been missing. There was no perimeter lighting, no watchtowers, no moving searchlights and accommodation was used dangerously close to the perimeter fence.

The guards were med-

NEWS FROM THE BARRY MEN'S FORUM

ically downgraded soldiers and were responsible for preventing the escape of 1,600 young, fit and very bored German soldiers.

Mike pointed out that given the totality of the conditions at this PoW camp, it was only a matter of time before trouble broke out.

This happened shortly before the war ended, when a number of prisoners, including army engineers, fled through a purpose-built tunnel they had constructed and quickly disappeared into the Welsh countryside.

The wood for the tunnel supports had been taken, unnoticed, from the prisoners' bunk-beds and 50 years later, a team from Swansea University Caving Club uncovered the tunnel and declared it to be still safe.

Seventy prisoners escaped, with a few getting as far as Birmingham and Southampton, but all were quickly rounded up and none resisted when caught.

Shortly after this incident, the facility was closed and the guards dispersed. This allowed the accommodation built for the arsenal women workers to move into its third phase, namely that of being a holding centre for senior German military staff waiting to go before the War Crimes

Tribunal to give evidence.

Several Field Marshals were held in the accommodation, including Gerd von Rundstedt and von Manstein.

Michael showed several interesting photographs of these VIPs arriving at Bridgend railway station with much luggage which had to be carried by their orderlies. We also saw some German generals taking parties of orphans out for walks.

Forum members learned a lot about this stretch of land that once housed the mighty arsenal and provided the accommodation for so many German soldiers, ranking from the lowest to the very highest.

We were reminded that the only prominent feature remaining from this huge complex is the imposing police station. Horses are trained on the land where the great escape took place.

At the next meeting on March 17, Glynn Jones will speak on 'Marconi and Flat Holm'.

Meetings are held at 10.30am on Thursdays in the hall of the United Reformed Church in Barry. For further details contact 029 2059 4881.

MAC TANNER

Barry pupils focused on healthy living

BARRY
Comprehensive School students and staff had great fun during the recent Healthy Living Week, taking part in activities promoting healthy eating, healthy bodies and healthy minds.

A huge range of sporting activities, covering everything from cricket to crossfire, to an inflatable assault course, got everyone moving, while fresh fruit was available at break and lunch times.

Sixth form students provided a special treat of home-made 'Sri Lanka Smoothies' which helped everyone stay on target for their five-a-day, as well as raising funds for this summer's Sri Lanka expedition.

Healthy Living was

the topic of the week in every subject; whether it was PSE, geography, English, RS, Welsh, art or French, students were immersed in all things healthy across the curriculum.

Pupils also received training in Heartstart emergency life-saving skills and had the opportunity to watch Theatre Iolo and Is It? Theatre Company perform plays exploring drug, alcohol and sexual health issues.

We would like to thank everyone who made the week a great success and especially to our friends at Tesco and Waitrose for their kind donation of ingredients for the delicious smoothies.

AC

Don't miss out on those time-saving shortcuts!

SOME years ago, we split each meeting into a short session on 'basics' – followed by a talk on another topic.

We abandoned the idea because of the disruption caused by switching between desktop computers and the speakers. Now laptops are widely used and the switching process is much smoother, so we are trying again.

Certainly there is a need to review the basics. There is a trickle of new members who are unfamiliar with computers. We are unable to provide one-to-one assistance, but we can point people in the right direction.

We cover quite a bit of ground from September to Christmas to give them a flying start, covering the things that we wish we had been told when we started.

Our advice is to continue the development of skills. It is tempting to stop learning once we are able to do what we need to do, but that way we lose the opportunity

to get more done with less effort.

Our new venture into this world of greater efficiency was a short session about keyboard shortcuts by Howard.

A keyboard shortcut is a combination of keys that produces a labour-saving effect by eliminating several mouse clicks. If you are typing, they avoid the need to switch hands to the mouse, find the pointer and move it to make the clicks.

The combination involves a modifier key (Control, Shift, Windows, Alt) that is held down while pressing a character key.

Sometimes two modifiers are used. The total range of shortcuts is vast, but you need learn only those that will be of greatest benefit to you.

The question is "How do I find them?" If you Google 'Keyboard Shortcuts' you will find a staggering number of them in various places. Alternatively, you could ask the application's help file.

Links to some of the more

WORRIED DINAS TRADERS POINT TO LOCAL SUPPORT

Tesco store could open on Castle Oak site by June

TESCO could open a store at the Castle Oak public house site in Dinas Powys as early as June – if their plans are accepted.

by **TIM CHAPMAN**

safety in the immediate vicinity.

I'm also keen to understand the range of products they will be looking to sell from the store, so that I can help support the local traders, giving them time to plan and react to the competition from the supermarket giant.

Mr Cairns said he supported traders' opposition to the store, but pointed out that Welsh planning principles were different to those in England and meant Tesco did not have to seek planning for the change of use of the premises.

A refurbishment of the site could take less than two months which means a new store might be operating by June or July.

For local shop owners like Jan and Tony Mapstone, who own the

popular Valley View Fruit Stores on Castle Drive, it is a worrying time.

Jan told The GEM: "We are disappointed, worried and upset. When this goes to planning, we and others will be objecting. We have had a lot of support from customers."

"I don't think Tesco minds about opposition and will go ahead regardless of what local people think."

Tesco say the store will create 25 local jobs, and a spokeswoman said: "It is also important to highlight that our convenience stores are around the size of a tennis court and by their nature, serve a small catchment area up to one kilometre."

"In fact, the vast majority of our Tesco Express customers walk to our stores, because they are so convenient to their homes or workplace."

Young volunteers are honoured at Senedd



Young volunteers are pictured with the AM at the Vale Volunteer Bureau Youth Awards ceremony at the Senedd.

THE achievements of young people and the work of the Vale Volunteer Bureau were celebrated at an awards ceremony in the Senedd.

It was hosted by Vale AM Jane Hutt, who said: "It is an established fact that far more children and young people than adults for example, do unpaid voluntary work in their local communities.

"Young people are taking responsibility in their schools in all sorts of ways; as playground volunteers and in supporting younger pupils and in school councils.

"They are also taking responsibility in their communities and within their families. The awards presented tonight clearly show this and we must congratulate our young people on their efforts and achievements."

PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB NEWS

interesting websites are in the notes on our club website under 'Forum'. www.penarthcomputer-club.co.uk

A browse around them would be very informative.

The sites list shortcuts in various ways. Lists are often broken up into sections that relate to an application. Even within the application, there might be different lists showing the shortcuts that work in each version of the application.

A list can be copied and pasted into a document for your own reference (you can edit out any sections that you do not want).

That way you can assemble a customised library of favourite shortcuts.

We next meet on Tuesday, March 22 at All Saints Lesser Hall at 7.30pm. Steve will give a short session on ripping CDs, followed by a talk by Mike J on Web Site Design. Visitors welcome. Enquiries to me on 029 2070 4849.

HOWARD DESMOND

BRIDGEND and DISTRICT YMCA celebrate 50 YEARS at Angel Street and invite you to their exhibition and new facility unveiling on SATURDAY 2nd APRIL



Bridgend YMCA celebrates 50 years in Angel Street

In some ways, celebrating 50 years of the YMCA in Bridgend is a little misleading – because the organisation has been going strong in the town for 167 years.

However, the charity is celebrating its 50th year



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opposite Bridgend Ford

The equipment for this new group was funded by the charity appeal of former Bridgend County Borough Mayor, Cleone Westwood.

In fact, this charity fund also paid for two of the computers in the young person's coffee lounge while the other two were supplied by the Bridgend Lions Club.

The Lions, of course, have a long-standing relationship with the YMCA in Angel Street, as it is the venue for the club's massive book sale weekends.

The most recent, said Lisa Gilchrist, raised £9,000!

She added: "One thing people tend to forget is that we are a registered charity, and we do need to

raise our own funds and look for value for money.

"Because of that, we want to get the maximum value from our new kitchen attached to the coffee shop, which has been upgraded and is well equipped.

"We have a steady flow of people using the centre during the day, so we are looking for volunteers to run that kitchen.

"We would even consider an offer from a commercial concern who might want to use it."

She added: "The YMCA's upgrade includes CCTV and modern alarm systems, so we can offer a high level of security, both inside the building and in the car park."



ABOVE (left to right):
Youth council members James Miller, Rhiannon Cichocki, Joshua Pryer and Stephanie Cichocki try out the comfy chairs in the coffee lounge.



Carwyn Jones, Assembly Member for Bridgend
Please direct enquiries to: Emlyn House,
36 Caroline Street, Bridgend CF31 1DQ
carwynjones@wales.gov.uk

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ALIEN INVASION FILM HAS PLENTY OF BANG - but not much in way of story

IF Hollywood has taught us anything about aliens, it is that they are out there, and more often than not, they are more than happy to blow us to smithereens before a dramatic fight-back sends them scuttling home.

While aliens and their invasions prove fertile ground to screenwriters and directors, some films just fail to work - *Skylane* was one of them. This preposterous film about an alien invasion in Los Angeles was a clichéd disaster, something the makers of *Battle Los Angeles* may have taken note of, as the bones of the story are the same.

Battle Los Angeles follows an alien invasion as a group of marines (led by Aaron Eckhart) must defend Los Angeles from being overtaken by extra-terrestrial invaders...

In order to distance itself from the traditional 'alien invasion' films, the makers of *Battle Los Angeles* wanted to make a war film where it just so happened the enemy was extra terrestrial, not

our fellow man.

This approach doesn't really pay any dividends as ultimately it works in the same way as many other invasion films, albeit with an onus on realism.

The build-up to the actual battle is cleverly executed, with captions breaking down the main characters and the situation as it unfolds, while shaky, hand-held cameras lend proceedings an intimacy and reality.

Of course, all the portents of doom are cleverly signposted (the couple getting married, the officer who is retiring from active duty) and once the set-up is over, we more or less get wall-to-wall action and excitement.

However, despite Jonathan Liebsman's strong directorial skills, what follows may more than satisfy in terms of action but offers very little fresh or inventive.

Liebsman apes the visceral visual style that is becoming more and more common, getting the camera in among the action. But the actual set-pieces themselves often become a blur of over-the-top editing and endless gunfire and explosions.

The special effects, as you would expect, are

of a high standard, Liebsman and his crew reducing Los Angeles and a variety of other cities to ash and rubble, and they look and feel seamless; but away from the fancy cosmetics and visuals there is very little to hold your attention.

The story, scripted by Christopher Bertolini, is merely the frame on which to hang the action and explosions, and reeks of predictability, from the storyline to the characters that inhabit it.

Such paper thin characterisation ill serves the cast, with only Aaron Eckhart, as the retiring sergeant pulled back into the fold once the invasion begins, having anything resembling a narrative hook, and the actor, though far too good for material like this, provides a decent turn.

The one thing that fans of computer games such as *Call of Duty* may notice is how closely the film resembles them - the smoky streets, endless 'bad guys' and missions to fulfil before you can progress to the next part of the story. It all highlights that *Battle Los Angeles* probably would have made an excellent 'shoot-em-up' game; as

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

it is, it is merely a diverting, if ultimately forgettable, action movie.

VERDICT -
Disappointingly dull, *Battle Los Angeles* is a lumbering action movie that certainly has thrills and spills, but ones that wears thin as the film goes on. As a brainless slice of popcorn entertainment it has its moments, but its lack of an engaging story works against it; still, it is a darn sight better than *Skylane*!

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Independence Day, Cloverfield, Black Hawk Down.*

Battle Los Angeles is on general release now.

In the footsteps of Wales' industrial pioneers

PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

A GROUP of ten walkers and Jodie the dog joined leaders Krys and Pam at Radyr station on a rather overcast, cloudy morning, and they left via Junction Terrace which led them towards the Danescourt housing estate.

This suburb of Cardiff was originally a separate village and developed after the Norman invasion of Wales at the beginning of the 12th century.

It formed part of the Cantref of Miskin, which was a medieval land division, deriving from the Welsh cant, meaning one hundred and tref meaning town.

The early settlement developed around the Norman church and manor house now known as Danescourt. During the 15th century the area became a wasteland and in 1469, Thomas Mathew inherited it through marriage and built Radyr Court an imposing manor house, where courts were held until it was destroyed by fire in the 19th century.

Crossing some wasteland from where there are good views towards Castell Coch, Craig yr Allt and the Wenallt, they followed a narrow road and went underneath a railway bridge to join the banks of the River Taff and walked towards Llandaff North Bridge.

Crossing the bridge they entered Hailey Park which has been open for public recreation since 1926 and joined part of the Taff Trail which is popular with joggers, walkers and cyclists.

They passed under a disused railway bridge and reached the Melingriffith Pump.

The Melingriffith Tinplate Works, built in 1794 just across the River Taff from Radyr, was built on the site of an old corn mill and became the largest employer of local workers in its two hundred year history.

The tin mills were powered by water drawn from the Taff down the Melingriffith feeder stream but the only visible sign today is the dry feeder stream and the restored water pump opposite Oak Cottage, the rest of the area has been built over.

Heading away from the Taff Trail the group passed a housing estate where the tinplate works once stood and joined what is left of the old Glamorgan Canal.

Construction of the canal began in 1790 on the 25-mile route from Merthyr Tydfil to the port of Cardiff and with a drop of 165-metres, fifty locks were installed.

Richard Crawshay was a major shareholder in the canal company and treated the canal as his property, until other ironmasters on the opposite side of the River Taff became annoyed at paying tolls and built the Merthyr Tramroad.

Eventually the canal was closed in 1951 as years of coal mining in the surrounding area had caused subsidence, and what is left is now a nature reserve.

Leaving the canal, they passed the award winning Amersham International building before rejoining the Taff Trail to Radyr Weir. From 1749, iron from Pencrych was transported by pack-horse, then tub boats were used on

the Taff and passed through the feeder via a lock at Radyr Weir, but this practice ended in 1815 and a tramway was built.

Crossing the Taff via a footbridge the group made their way back to Radyr station, which opened in 1863 when the population began to grow as the Taff Vale and then the Great Western Railway brought employment to the area.

Radyr stone has been used for decorative work in the Cardiff area, including Llandaff Cathedral, buildings at Cardiff Docks and bridges on the Taff Vale railway line.

On March 19, meet 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 10-mile moderate walk from Blaenavon taking in the history of the iron trail; contact Clive on 029 2065 4156.

On March 20, meet 9am at Cogan for a 10-mile walk from Brockweir in the lovely Wye Valley; contact Nick on 01446 420540.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. For details of other walks please log onto www.ramblers.org.uk Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

OCEAN LOUNGE • PORTKERRY

It looks like being a classic summer season here at the Ocean Lounge. With a few more improvements, and some changes to the menu with a new specials board, we are definitely worth visiting.

Can you be entertained?

Mixing it up a bit more this year! As well as **cabaret nights on a Saturday** we will be having some bands and comedians, plus a mixture of other acts on a Friday (Easter onwards) such as karaoke, theme nights, band nights, comedy nights, and drag artists, there is something for everyone. **It's the only place to go to over the Bank holiday weekends**, with three big nights of entertainment. Keep an eye out for what's coming.

And to eat? We offer a **great value menu from only £4.99** with traditional family favourites, plus some more unusual fare too. Don't forget our **Curry with a pint on Thursday evenings** from the end of May onwards. It's been really popular, with home made curries changing weekly, plus the **Thursday quiz**. **Sunday lunch from £6.95** offers exceptional value for a table served meal in relaxed surroundings without the hustle and the bustle of the usual carvery fare. Booking for lunch is definitely recommended.

The location? With **fantastic views from the cliff top** overlooking the Bristol Channel, with views to The Knap and the historic islands of Steepholm and Flatholm, and on a clear day across to Weston it is a great place to find refreshment with the large cliff top patio and outdoor seating. And yet only a **10 minute trip from Barry or Llantwit Major**.

What else? A large car park and pleasant location makes us an ideal place to hold a wedding reception, birthday party, conference or any private function. In short, a great place, serving good food and good beer, with a great atmosphere!

Saturday, 19th March
Rugby shown on large TV Screen



Bookings for Mothers Day now being taken!

3 Course Meal £9.95
plus pianist/violin

Booking definitely recommended to avoid disappointment.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday, 19th March Sherrie Lee Lewis (Vocalist)
Saturday, 26th March Lee Jay (Vocalist)

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See our advert in The GEM for regular entertainment updates and extended opening dates



Out and About with The GEM

The 'Midnight Walkers' help all at Ty Hafan



A group of young ladies – ready for the off at last year's event

IT'S that time of year again...when ladies and girls across the Vale and Bridgend start thinking about buying an extra special pair of pyjamas – ready for the 'Ty Hafan Midnight Sleep Walk' which has opened for registration.

Now in its third year, the Cardiff event will be

taking place on Friday, May 13, giving a chance for families, friends and work colleagues to don a pair of pink flashing bunny ears and generally have a fun night, a spokeswoman said.

"By giving up just one night of sleep, walkers will be helping mums across Wales who care for their life-limited children. For them, a full night's sleep can be so..."

To register, call 029 2067 2065 or go online to www.midnightsleepwalk.co.uk

Last year saw numbers double to more than

Know your musicals and win some stamps!

ROYAL MAIL is celebrating more than seven decades of popular UK stage musicals on a new set of stamps, 'Stage Musicals,' and have been praised by Welsh musical theatre director and performer, Mal Pope.

The musicals stamps feature such classic West

End productions as *We Will Rock You*, one of the eight stamps including *Blood Brothers*, *Oliver!*, *Spamalot*, *Rocky Horror Show*, *Me and My Girl*, *Return to the Forbidden Planet* and *Billy Elliot* and readers of The Glamorgan GEM have the chance to win a presentation pack of these impressive stamps.

Mal Pope, who has written songs for Cliff Richard and The Hollies and has sung with Elton John and Bonnie Tyler – and toured with Art Garfunkel – is a keen fan of West End musicals.

He has also written a few of his own – including the popular *Cappuccino Girls*, performed at several theatre venues across Wales.

To win a set of musical stamps in a special presentation pack, simply answer the following question:

Which of these musicals has Mal Pope written?

- a) *Cappuccino Girls*
- b) *Espresso Boys*
- c) *Latte Aliens*

Send your answers on a postcard marked 'Musical Stamps' to: Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, no later than March 25.

Normal terms and conditions apply and the judge's decision is final. Good luck!

MP's surgeries

VALE MP Alun Cairns, will be holding surgeries for advice and assistance on Friday, March 18, at the following locations:

1.30pm – 3pm at Wenvoe Community Hall, Wenvoe.

4pm – 5.30pm at Tesco, Stirling Road, Barry.

Anyone in the Vale is welcome to attend, but surgeries are very busy, and it is advisable to call 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D661.

● The rollover, which now stands at £1,500, was not won this week.

● £2,000: 173909.

● £10: 301067;

718630; 889743;

420032; 208900;

370773; 573903;

351662; 615518;

253410; 621342;

145642; 674460;

331172; 307354;

415833; 987466;

449598; 279735;

509937; 506620;

● £5: 68070; 687275;

164024; 363873;

491056; 298644;

538189; 619391;

713412; 124094;

365039; 858088;

547382; 796156;

507916; 396231;

Award-winning comedy in the Market Theatre



ABOVE: Jeff Grist (who plays Colin)

THE Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Society's next production – to be staged over three nights (March 24–26) at 7.30pm in the Market Theatre – is Michael Frayn's award-winning philosophical comedy *The Benefactors*.

riages. Twists and turns abound as the plot moves towards its conclusion.

Tickets are on sale from Davies, the Newsagent, in the High Street, or they may be reserved by telephoning the director, Brenda Grove on 01446 772732.

'Asylum of the Universe'

A GEOGRAPHY teacher now working in adult education, Andrew Chyba, who is the chairman of the Bridgend Green Party, is the author of *The Asylum of the Universe*, a series of essays.

These explore such disparate and wide-ranging questions as: Why wear clothes? What is the value of sport? Why do we have currencies? What should schools teach? Why are we such fussy eaters? What is the point of art? How should we view death? Can we save the planet?

For further information, contact Asylum@chyba.gov-plus.net; or 078 1066 3241.

GEM Select winner

THE winner of our GEM Select competition, to spend £100 at a business of the winner's choosing, was Maggie Lewis of Flemington, who chose to spend the money at The Shop, Cowbridge – congratulations!

Llantwit Major Craft & Gift Fairs 2011

We start the Spring season with even more to show

Saturday 19th March

Llantwit Hall

(behind the library) 10.00am - 3.30pm

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.Barnardo's benefits from choir's concert



Left to right: Nans Binding, Ann Davies, Gareth Roberts, June Davis and musical director Dorothy Connell.

BARRY Male Voice Choir chairman Gareth Roberts was recently delighted to present the Barry Barnardo's group members, Nans Binding, Ann Davies and June Davis, with a cheque for £750, the proceeds of the choir's Christmas carol concert at St Mary's Church, Barry.

Ann Davies, chair of the Barnardo's Group thanked the choir for dedicating its concert to them and added: "This generous gift will allow us to continue to support many vital local schemes aimed at improving the lives of children whose lives are blighted by a lack of opportunities."

The choir continues to be very busy and during a successful St David's Day celebration at Wetherspoons' Sir Samuel Romilly, £170 was collected for CLIC Sargent, the children's cancer charity founded by Sir Malcolm

Sargent.

The choir now look forward to a pioneering joint concert with Barry Comprehensive School on the evening of Wednesday, April 6. Ticket prices are: adult £3, children £1.50 and will be available at the school, (01446 411411) or from Barry Male Voice Choir members.

Chairman Gareth Roberts explained: "We are proud to join up with the talented students of the school. This is a part of our outreach programme into the wider community and is also a way of establishing links with the younger generation. We look forward to seeing old and new supporters at this exciting event."

Visitors and anyone who might be interested in joining the choir are welcome at practices in Holy Trinity Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry, on Mondays and Thursdays at 7.30pm.

Further information is available on www.barrymalevoicechoir.co.uk

The Big Screen

BIG SCREEN'S next presentation is *Another Year* (Certificate 12) on Thursday, March 24, at 7.30pm in the town hall.

This critically-acclaimed and Oscar-nominated film is directed by Mike Leigh.

It stars Jim Broadbent, Lesley Manville and Ruth Sheen and contrasts the serenity and happiness of the lives of Tom and Gerri with the unhappiness of some of their friends and relatives.

Doors open 7.10pm. Tickets (£3) available in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door).

BHF coffee

THE British Heart Foundation's Llantwit Major branch will hold its annual coffee morning on Thursday, April 21, at 10.30am in West House Country Hotel. Tickets of £3, are available on 01446 792010 or pay at the door.

The annual bike ride is being held on Sunday, May 22, at the Llandow circuit. Information from Patrick Hart on 01446 792010. Last year, 90 people raised £2,053 for the British Heart Foundation.

Community centre AGM

THE Gibbonsdown Community Centre management team will be holding their AGM next week at the centre, Ramsey Road, Barry, on Thursday, March 24, at 6pm.

On the agenda will be the presentation of accounts and election of officers for the forthcoming year.

Further information can be obtained from the secretary by calling 01446 732692.

The Remedy of Spirit - How to use it and its results

A free public talk and Q&A by international speaker Dr Robert Ennemoser



Dr. Robert Ennemoser trained as a natural scientist and biologist. He now practices and teaches Christian Science and is a member of the Christian Science board of lectureship.

Saturday 26th March at 2:30pm

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Barry Round Table

We are looking for new members to join our organisation to help local charities raise local funds for worthy causes.

If you enjoy meeting new friends, socialising and helping your local community, e-mail us at chairman@barryroundtable.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 23 March 2011



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FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
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Columbus Crescent	84	Gold	15/12/10
Bis Fisher Court	14	Gold+	25/01/11
Rhodd Elin	74	Gold	10/11/10
Gwyn James Court	2	Bronze	10/01/11
Osprey Court	38	Gold	07/05/10
Thomas Court	30	Silver	25/02/11

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GEM Family Notices

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Muriel Chappell

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xxx

Family Notices

TORRES

Peacefully on the 13th March 2011 at her home surrounded by her family, Pamela of Llanblethian. Beloved wife of Eduardo and a much loved mother, grandmother, sister and aunt. She will be truly missed.

Resting at W.A.Brown & Son, College St, Llanwit Major until the funeral service in St Cadoc's Church Cowbridge on Thursday March 24 at 2.30pm followed by interment. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only).

BELCHER

Edith

Peacefully at the University Hospital Wales. Edith aged 84 years.

Of Cathays, Adamsdown, Cardiff. Formerly of Wattstown and Ynysytre. Beloved wife of the late Raymond Belcher (RAF gunners Association). Much loved mother and mother-in-law of Allan and Jean, Derek and Pam, John and Laura. Grandmother of Stephen and Emma, Jeffrey, Sally and Alex; Richard, Sharon, Catherine and Scott; Grace and Roy. Sister of Tommy and Connie.

Reception of Body at St Germans Church, Cardiff 6pm on Monday, 21st March. Requiem Mass Tuesday 22nd at 11am. Family Flowers only. Donations to St Germans Church.

MILLS

Harry Wyndham

Peacefully on March 11 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Squadron Leader Mick Mills D.F.M., R.A.F. retired, of Llanwit Major. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W.James & Sons, Fonmon.

Funeral Friday March 25, service and cremation 3.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to RAF charities, please make cheques payable to W.James & Sons Charity Account c/o Mrs C.James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

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But what you are allowed to do depends upon the licence – and that can say just about anything.

Some you can give away freely. The creator wants no reward for making it available and wants as many people as possible to benefit from it. Perhaps it is a small application that can be useful. It might be updated occasionally, but there is no-one to contact for help.

On the other hand, software that is expensive to develop can be severely restricted. The licence fees ensure that the company can pay for staff, for further development and for support services.

Copying software can be so easy that unscrupulous people make illegal copies and offer them for sale. The price is often just below normal retail price because many users are now aware that if it looks too good to be true, it probably is. The user is responsible for ensuring software is properly licensed, so use reputable sources.

To facilitate 'try before you buy', companies will supply free software in various forms to introduce you to their product in the hope that you will like it and buy the licence. It might be an old (or cut-down) ver-

HOWARD DESMOND

Aimee's progress in 'Young Chef'

AIMEE DELANEY of Bryn Hafren Comprehensive has once again done Barry proud!

As reported in The GEM, she had already won the 'Young Chef' competition run by Barry Rotary Club.

In February, she progressed again, beating other entrants from the Vale. Then, in March, she went to Builth Wells meeting contestants from south and mid Wales, where she triumphed once more.

Now she is heading for the regional final of this Rotary-sponsored competition, again to be held at Builth Wells on Saturday, April 9. This brings in contestants from areas of England as well.

David Ball, incoming president of Barry Rotary Club, said: "Rotary runs

Aimee Delaney.

several competitions to encourage the youth of our town to develop their professional skills and it makes all of us extremely proud to have such talent in our midst."

Bryn Hafren pupils get into character!



PHOTOGRAPHS by IAN DIXON

BRYN HAFREN pupils celebrated National Book Day by dressing as their favourite literary characters, with the staff joining in the fun.

Headteacher Phil Whitcomb had the difficult task of selecting the winning costumes and commented that this year, the standard was higher than ever.



TOUGHEST OF THE TOUGH TACKLE JENNER PARK 40-MILE ULTRA RACE!

ONCE again, Barry has played host to one of the toughest races in the world calendar.

The Barry 40 Miles Track Race has become a cult event. Born exactly 25 years ago on the Jenner Park cinder track, it has developed into an international class endurance race that is known around the world in ultra-distance circles, and is a major trial for international team selection.

Three athletes who have triumphed at Barry have gone on to win the World 100 km crown. In the past 24 editions of the event, 57 world best performances have been set.

An excellent field of 25 athletes from all parts of the UK entered, of whom 22 toed the line. However, one factor that can never be determined is the weather.

As the gun went at 10am, the heavens opened. This wasn't quite what the runners were hoping for. The other deterrent was the energy-sapping blustery wind that seemed to be snapping at the heels of the athletes all the way through.

With athletes coming from around the UK, the overall winner was George Dayantis (Christchurch Runners), with a time of four hours, 24.17 seconds, seven-and-a-half minutes clear of Paul Fernandez of Abingdon Harriers.

Two women entries were in fourth and fifth place: Adela Salt (Trentham) and Karen Rushton (South West Vets), and it was the first time that two women had broken the five-hour barrier at Barry.

The third lady to finish was Jen Salter, in eighth place overall and improving her personal best by 10 minutes in 5:09:15. This won Jen the Welsh Ultra Championship, and for the first time, the fastest Welsh lady also beat the fastest Welsh man.

Loretta Daley also recorded a personal best of 5:50:48, this time by five minutes in taking silver.

Mark Baker (Northbrook AC) took the Welsh Men's title in 5:37:03, a triumph for persistence as he had previously won silver and bronze in four attempts.



PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

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Cadoxton Tae Kwon Do excel at Welsh Open Championships



PICTURED (Left to right): Dominic Todd, Morganne Gomez Jones, Jamie Halford, Liam Rees, Shannon Haysham, Bradley Halford, Thomas Haysham, Matthew Bennet, Cian Allen, Ollie Tipples and Hayley Mattey. Missing is Demi McFarlane.

ON Sunday, February 27, a small number of competitors from the Cadoxton Schools travelled the short distance to the Penarth Leisure Centre, where 500 competitors converged to take part in the Imperial Tae Kwon Do Association Welsh Open championships.

Once the pattern sections were completed, the coloured belt continuous sparring categories got under way.

In only their second tournament, Cian Allen and Shannon Haysham did exceptionally well to come away first places and the gold medals.

After fighting his way through to the final, Ollie Tipples' fight went into extra time twice and was eventually decided on the next point to be scored where Ollie got the point taking the gold.

Showing all of his experience Liam Rees took control of his category to take the gold medal.

Competing in probably the largest category of the day, Bradley Halford dominated to come away with the gold.

Jamie Halford competing in a hard-fought men's heavy weight division came away with the silver and second place.

Competing in the same category, Morganne Gomez Jones and Demi McFarlane both fought their way into the last three, with Demi taking the silver and Morganne the

bronze.

The unluckiest competitor of the day was Matthew Bennet who dominated his bout but unfortunately came away with the bronze.

Once again, eight-year-old Hayley Mattey fought well to come away with the silver and second place.

Thomas Haysham showing that he has a bright martial arts future fought his way through and came away with the bronze and third place.

Not to be left out, Dominic Todd also took the bronze, making it a successful day with 12 competitors and 12 podium places.

For further information and training times, please phone Barry 406372 or 07811934079.

RON THOMAS

The Barrians welcome Spanish tourists for game

THE Barrians welcomed University of Vic, a touring side from Catalonia, on a glorious March afternoon perfect for flowing rugby.

Player-manager Ken Chow was able to pick from a large squad of players, and mixed his regular Barrians with a combination of players from the second XV and promising youth players.

The home side dominated from the off with back-rowers Chris Bourge and James Hadfield repeatedly breaking the Vic line.

Having camped for long periods inside the away twenty-two, the ball was spread wide to Chow, who, after being dragged just short of the line, offloaded for Kyle Case, in the unfamiliar position of outside centre, to bundle across the whitewash.

Ashley Adams was immaculate with his conversion from a tight angle.

Once again Hadfield was pivotal, putting Chow clear on the wing, and this time the captain made no mistake to ground in the corner.

Jason Evans and Andy Moffat demonstrated why their experience was crucial to the team, as their work in the tight allowed scrum-half Jim Thorne to orchestrate matters with his talented back-line,

Hadfield waltzed past

BARRIANS 46-0 VIC

some desperate tackles to score under the posts for his first try, before diving through in the corner for his second.

Most sides would have given up at being 24-0 down away from home, but the tourists upped their game in the last quarter of the first half, with loanee Hywel Jones outstanding with his ball carrying.

Several times they threatened to score from close in, and when their outside half seemingly touched down in the corner, he was denied by the touch judge's flag, rightly or wrongly.

The second half saw a return to action from injury for Grantley Harris, and also a Barrian debut for Sam Bowditch in the front row.

They carried on where the home side had left off in the first half, and sure enough Harris was on hand to score in the corner early in the second interval.

After hooker Alyn Evans had increased the lead with a typically incisive run reminiscent of his former days as a centre, Vic came back strongly yet again, and had a number of attacking scrums and line-outs in the Barrian twenty-two.

Once again they threatened to score on several occasions, but in

Cadoxton Barry earn a point in late drama

South Wales Senior League Division One
Llanrumney United 1
Cadoxton Barry FC 1

THINGS had seemed so promising for Cadoxton Barry for much of the match.

But that changed deep into the second half, as they conceded a goal before going a man down as Harvey collected a second yellow card.

Then, with just seconds of injury time remaining, the ten men broke upfield to earn a corner as keeper Russell Martin, who had had a great match for Llanrumney, unnecessarily brushed against a shot that was going wide anyway.

Up stepped substitute Jermaine Martyn to send in perfectly flighted cross and Patrick Curran ran in to head home a late equaliser.

Cadoxton threatened from the start as a Mitchell Sales cross was only just too high for Mills, who then curled a shot just wide of the right hand post.

Sales was involved yet again as good work from Ross Weekly set him up for a shot that lacked the power it required.

United then countered with a good move and they piled on the pressure as the half time whistle approached.

For a short period in the second half United continued in the same vein, but Cadoxton countered as Baker powered into the box, only to be manhandled to the ground.

Claims for a penalty, however, were waved away by an otherwise exemplary referee.

Llanrumney earned a free kick just outside the box and Gardner hit it well, curling it round the wall.

Norris looked to have

it covered until it took the slightest of deflections from Mills and, unfortunately, Norris was unable to re-adjust in time to save it.

This lifted United and when, only minutes later, Harvey earned himself a second yellow for a late tackle, the situation looked way beyond redemption for Cadoxton.

Llanrumney were now making the extra man tell and fell only just short of increasing their lead on a number of occasions - Cadoxton getting caught out as they threw caution to the wind by throwing men forward.

But it did eventually pay as that precious corner was earned, the prelude to Curran's dramatic point-saving header.

Cadoxton Barry are now just one point behind fourth-from-bottom Caerphilly, who lost 8-2 at home to Cadoxton neighbours Sully Sports.

This Saturday, Cadoxton Barry entertain Cwmbach Royal Stars at Jenner Park, kick off 2pm.

Entry is just £1, with accompanied children going in free of charge.

This week's Linnets lottery numbers were 1, 2, 5, 7, 8 and 12. There was one lucky winner of the £750 prize so next week the prize on offer goes back to £250; a choice of 6 from 20 numbers.

This Saturday, Cadoxton Barry are holding a karaoke evening at the Masonic Hall in Broad Street, Barry.

Entry is by ticket, a limited number of which will be available at the door; proceedings start at 7.30pm.

NW

Dragons grab their first league win of the year

BARRY TOWN GOYTRE UNITED
1
0

THE Dragons finally won their first game in the league in 2011 with a hard fought but deserved 1-0 win against Goytre United - and this win lifted the Dragons into 10th spot with Goytre in 11th.

The team were out of the blocks quickly and were immediately on the attack. Within two minutes, a ball down the right saw Anthony Nagi beat a couple of defenders before crossing the ball for Ryan Jenkins to score his sixth goal in nine games.

Goytre United tried their best to get into the game but the back four, superbly led by Kurt Bettles, were a match for everything thrown at them, apart from one scare close to half-time when an opposition for-

ward was left unmarked in the box, but his shot easily cleared the cross-bar.

At the other end, the Goytre keeper was forced into several saves but the half finished with The Dragons leading.

The second half really was a repeat, with Barry Town forcing the pace and Goytre trying to hit them on the break. Dan Bradley was forced into one brilliant save midway through the second half but generally was untroubled.

A bit more composure in front of goal would have seen the Dragons with a more comfortable win but no one was in doubt that on the day, the better team won the game.

Scott Jones, starting for the first time since

returning to the club, brought a different dimension to the midfield and all round The Dragons will be pleased with their performance.

Manager Leon Dennis will hope that his team take confidence from this win and kick on for the rest of the season.

Barry Town face league leaders, Bryntirion Athletic, away on Saturday, March 19, and at home on Friday, March 25.

Dragons: Dan Bradley; Geraint Frowen, Kurt Bettles, Lewis Cosslett, Lewis James, Rob Blatchford, Scott Jones, James Saddler, Mike Hartley; Anthony Nagi (sub Dan Clare), Ryan Jenkins (sub Josh Bell).

NEWS FROM BARRY RFC MINI AND JUNIORS

Under-10s battle in two exciting games

BARRY RFC under-10s lined up to face Llandaff North in two games.

The pressure finally paid off with Joseph Williams smashing through for his second of the match.

Ewan added the extra points but Llandaff North missed a conversion, making the score Barry 26, Llandaff North 26.

In the last five minutes Barry upped their game, camping in the Llandaff half.

Well done to both teams.

BD

Barry under-9s' performance is ten out of ten!

BARRY under-9s played away to Penarth on Sunday, March 13.

Barry outplayed them from the kick-off, however, they conceded a superb try from Penarth early in the game.

It was a great performance from every single player, with some big hits and strong running coming from Max, supported by more committed tackles from Connor M, C Webb, Jacob and Sam.

Rhys P's tackling was too much for the opposition, and once in possession, Barry's evasive running and passing was way too much for the home team to handle.

Barry scored through R Adams, who showed his pace and agility to score two fantastic tries.

This was followed by some great strong running and awareness from L Harris, who ran in

three tries.

M Grady's pace and power was too much, and he scored three brilliant tries, followed by some try saving tackles.

Barry were able to make use from the scrum and with some slick passing, C Phillips notched two great tries.

When Penarth had possession, R Powell made a great interception to score under the posts. In the last quarter, Barry's defence was a force to be reckoned with, and some great tackles from every player allowed Barry to win 10-3.

We would like to say a big thank Penarth who were great hosts on such a great day for rugby; also a big thank you to all the players!

Team: Sam, Louie H, Calvin, Mason, Rhys A, Ryan, Connor W, Connor M, Joel, Levi C, Jacob, Rhys P, James, Morgan, Max. NT

Cowbridge under-12s cruise to semi-finals

Under-12s Dowlais (Blues Cup Quarter Final)

COWBRIDGE had an easier than expected passage into the semi finals of the Blues Cup at Dowlais, outscoring their opponents by seven tries to one.

Cowbridge killed off the tie in the first half, with Toff Patel scoring an excellent try with a break from just inside the Dowlais half.

Within a few minutes Ossian John found Dan Bunney on his shoulder and a fine offload saw the centre race under the posts for the second try.

A further two tries by Dan Bunney gave the visitors the lead at half time by 28 points to nil, outside half Cai Evans having converted all four tries.

At the start of the second half Cowbridge took up where they left off when Toff Patel crashed over for his second try which was unconverted.

Dowlais were unable to break down the Cowbridge defence, with Duncan Ace, Harry Hopkins and Tom Evans

pulling off a number of aggressive tackles.

The Cowbridge pack were now rampant and it came as no surprise when wing Harrison Stevens scored the sixth try with a fine individual run.

The Cowbridge replacements then came off the bench to good effect, with Will Cousins and Ollie Rampling both catching the eye.

With five minutes of play remaining Alex Meeson scored a solitary try for Dowlais, which he also converted.

However, Cowbridge hit back through Angus James and Max Cunningham.

Tries from Bevan Howells, Sam Corkill, Rhys Bradshaw and a fourth for Evan Williams secured a comfortable win for Cowbridge by 84 points to 12.

Squad: Angus James, Bevan Howells, Sam Corkill, Cameron Roy, Dan Marshall, Dylan Cottle, Ellis Simon, Evan Williams, Ioan Lewis, James Guard, Max Cunningham, Max Lucas, Morgan Gore, Oliver Reynolds, Rhys Bradshaw, Rhys Davies, Sam Corkill, Tom Jose, William Davies.

Last gasp Sully grab a point

SULLY travelled to Dinas Powys having not played in several weeks.

Sully once again found themselves short of numbers, and Joe McCann, Nigel Underdown, Daf Brown and Becker made a makeshift defence.

Glenbrook struck first midway through the half as Sully continued to struggle to play any football.

Glenbrook doubled their lead towards the end of the half.

Sully grabbed a goal when Liam Hobbs crossed and new signing Antony latched on and pulled a goal back.

Sully needed to see out the half, but Glenbrook struck once

MTL

JL

YMCA male gymnasts are success story

RIGHT: Tom Roberts, Joseph Rowlands, Eithan Singh and Clinton Purnell. Bottom right: Clinton Purnell (Commonwealth Gymnasts) and Iwan Mepham (Welsh Gymnastics Male Gymnast of the Year)



THE Barry YMCA male elite team have proven that they are the top team in Wales.

The team, coached by Pete Haysham - Welsh gymnastics male artistic national programme coach - have competed at a string of events over the past few months resulting in a variety of impressive results.

The squad had a great deal of motivation going into the new year following the fantastic achievement of the eldest team member Clinton Purnell, who was selected to represent Wales at the Delhi Commonwealth Games in October 2010.

Pete Haysham was thrilled to be the team coach for Wales at the event, which saw the Welsh team producing their best result ever in a Commonwealth games, placing fifth overall.

Clinton did not disappoint, assisting the team to their title and qualifying for the individual all around event (top 24 gymnasts) finishing 20th overall. Clinton also gained a place in the vault final (top eight gymnasts) placing sixth overall.

From here, the elite squad took part in the Welsh Championships, with Clinton regaining the Welsh senior overall title this year winning

gold on rings, vault and Welsh national squad high bar.

Just one week separated the Welsh Championships from the London Open where a slightly depleted team competed. Injury held back Iwan, James and Joseph, who had to be fit for a selection of events.

Clinton competed in all six disciplines to place ninth overall, an impressive effort as the standards were very high and included the full selection of British squad gymnasts. Clinton's result has furthered his chances of gaining a place in the British squad to compete in the World Student Games in China later this year.

The final competition was the Celtic Cup, held this year in Belfast. The boys are improving and developing all the time. Chris was thrilled to achieve a bronze medal for his work on vault.

In the under-10 competition, Eithan Singh competed in his first ever competition. A natural talent with an immense deal of ability, Eithan achieved bronze overall, gold on rings, silver on vault and parallel bars and bronze on floor and high bar.

Eithan has trained for less than a year in the sport with only the last six months under Pete's guidance - and he has now been selected for the

FB

Devils look dapper!



ABOVE: The players look smart in their new kit.

LLANTWIT Major Building Contractors have provided training tops for the Cadoxton Imps Devils under-11 football team.

Coach Peter Bowdon, pictured far left, thanked them for the donation, and the boys look very smart; a credit to the football club.

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Vale Schools under-11s lose out in a thriller

THE Vale of Glamorgan Schools under-11s travelled to a dry and firm Gelligaled Parc pitch, Ystrad Rhondda, and came away second best to a well drilled Rhondda Schools team, relying on hard running forwards and a couple of match-winning backs.

The match started superbly well for the Vale with Harrison Ashby intercepting a pass against the run of play after Rhondda had used their backline to spread the ball, but they were contained by the Vale tacklers.

He sped down the left flank from 40 metres, outpacing the cover defence to score under the posts after two minutes; Bevan Howell converted.

Both teams ran the ball well and were well contained at ruck and tackle situations by their

Minis welcome Dafydd

ON Sunday, March 6, Barry RFC mini section were thrilled to welcome Cardiff Blues centre Dafydd Hewitt to the club.

Dafydd watched every team from the rugby crèche to the under-11s training, signed autographs, posed for photos and even helped out with a bit of coaching.

The children were thrilled to meet one of their heroes and presented Dafydd with a Barry RFC hoodie.

Huge thanks to Dafydd for giving up his time to come to the club, and the club look forward to welcoming him back next week to train with the junior teams.

opposition.

The next score was created by the Vale backs of Rhidian and Joseph Williams, who shipped the ball to Ashby again on his wing.

From the following maul Haaris Kahn emerged on the blind to sprint in and score in the corner from 20 metres out.

At this stage the Vale had a healthy 12-0 lead.

Rhondda started to use their bigger forwards to good effect and only a try-saving tackle by Reuben Williams stood in their way.

A number of scrums followed with Rhondda being held up over the Vale try line a number of times.

The next scrum saw them move it blind for their centre to burst through and score, 12-5 to the Vale.

A Vale scrum upfield following the restart, after Jack Little had disrupted the catch for the Rhondda, put Reuben Williams in position at flyhalf, but the ball didn't go to hand and the chance was lost.

The try of the match went to the Rhondda just before halftime when their deceptive winger jinked past five defenders to score close in, adding the conversion and turning round at 12-12.

The second half started well for the Vale,

pinching the ball in contact. Ashby on the left, via Howell and Hopkins, who seeing the space, went at pace, fooled the defence with a cheeky stutter-step to beat the last defender, and scored under the posts. Howell converted once again to put the Vale in the driving seat at 19-12 up.

The Rhondda forwards robbed the ball in contact and popped it to their wing who sprinted 50 metres down the left wing to score under the posts, converting it all even again.

In a cruel twist, from a maul near the touchline, the Rhondda tight head prop emerged and outpaced the Vale defenders to score with a flamboyant dive in the corner, making the score 24-19.

A thoroughly entertaining match, with two well-matched sides adding to the spectacle for players and spectators.

Vale squad: Jack Lee, Max Lucas, Fin Davies, Max Cunningham, Reuben Williams, Haaris Kahn, Jack Little, Sam Corkhill, Jac Roberts, Rhys Durlucia (captain), Ioan Williams, Ioan Lewis, Rhys Bradshaw, Rhidian Williams, Rhys Jones, Rhodri Hopkins, Bevan Howell, Joseph Williams, Ben Jones, Harrison Ashby.

DAVID WILLIAMS

Imps maintain the pressure at summit

LEAGUE title contenders Cadoxton Imps under-15s met Porthkerry Panthers.

UNDER-15S
PORTHKERRY PANTHERS
1
CADOXTON IMPHS
1

rattled the back of the net with a neat finish.

The Imps worked their way into the game and started creating chances, thanks to tireless defensive work from Gage Waller, Jacob Burgess, Louis Burrows and Jo Robinson keeping the Panthers strikers at bay.

Sam Rees Davies

once again proved why he is so highly rated, keeping the score level with some good saves and superb distribution.

The Imps made the breakthrough midway through the first half when man of the match Jordan Williams coolly

Panthers net.

Once again the Panthers replied by coming straight back at the Imps, and after a short spell got a well deserved goal after a rare mix up in the usually tight Imps defence.

The Imps hit Panthers with an outstanding counter attack goal from Dan Morgan, giving them the edge again.

A cool and calculated finish from Kieron Ashton rounded off a flowing move for the team's fourth.

JH



ABOVE: Fin Davies lining up the Rhondda winger.

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SPORTS

06 BMW 3.0 TD MSport Automatic 4-dr Saloon in met black with beige leather interior, electric folding mirrors, automatic air con, MV-2 alloy wheels, traction control system, only 58,900 miles £15,995

09 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 16v (140ps) SRi 3-dr Sports Hatch. In technical grey with charcoal alpha cloth interior, air con, 17" alloy wheels, front fog, ESP, immobiliser, only 26,850 miles £9,995

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06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.4TSi (170ps) FT 5-dr in reflex silver metallic with siemere anthracite interior, climatic air con, front fog, alloy wheels, cd, only 49,998 miles £9,995

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05 RENAULT Megane 2.0 VVT 136 Privilège 2-dr Coupe Cabriolet. In metallic gold with magnolia leather interior, luxury pack, climate control, multi CD, cruise control, panoramic roof, only 9,250 miles £6,995

05 BMW 1 Series 2.0TD 118d Sport 5-dr Hatchback. In sapphire black with anthracite interior, CD, climate control, alloy wheels, front fog, only 52,000 miles £10,495

05 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 HDi 110 Sport 5-dr hatchback in flamenco red with black Merlin interior, alloy wheels, air con, CD, body coloured bumpers, only 50,600 miles £4,995

05 FORD Street Ka 1.6 Luxury 2-dr Convertible. In French blue with ebony black leather interior, air con, cd, quick clear front screen, only 21,720 miles £4,995

05 MAZDA 3Sport 2.0 5-dr Hatchback. In winning blue with ebony cloth, 17" alloy wheels, climate control, multi CD, front fogs, only 57,390 miles £5,995

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07 SEAT Altea XL 1.9 TDi Styline. In metallic ruby red with stylance grey interior, rear parking sensors, cd, climate control, cruise control, aux input, only 49,100 miles £8,495

07 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.8 16v SRI 5-dr MPV. In silver lightning with Silver Alpha Charcoal interior, air con, traction control system, alloy wheels, only 52,000 miles £7,495

07 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 16v Breeze 5-dr MPV. In Black sapphire with charcoal interior, reversing sensors, CD, air con, privacy glass, only 23,580 miles £6,495

07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback. In mercury silver with carbon sport interior, air con, cd, front fogs, alarm, only 15,060 miles £6,495

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04 FORD Mondeo Ghia 5-Dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with ebony interior, 6-CD changer, automatic air con, alarm, immobiliser, alloy wheels, only 5,300 miles £4,395

04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon. Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles £5,995

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03 FORD Focus 1.6 16v LX 5-Dr Hatchback. In blue with midnight black interior, air con, quick clear screen, alloy wheels, service history, only 71,000 miles £3,495

SMALL

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08 FORD KA Studio. In panther black with cascade interior, immobiliser, CD, drivers airbag, central locking, only 32,349 miles £4,495

07 FORD Ka 1.6 Sport SE 3-Dr Hatchback. In panther black with black/red leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, CD, privacy glass, only 19,600 miles £4,995

06 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 3-dr Hatchback. In tonic blue with Tungsten Denim blue interior, alloy wheels, air con, electric front windows, power steering, only 46,000 miles £4,995

06 FIAT Panda 1.2 Dynamic Duologie 5-Dr. In Guacamole green with yellow Move interior, air con, CD, central locking, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 30,500 miles £4,495

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05 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Expression 3-Dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with grey interior, air con, CD, panoramic roof, only 49,600 miles £4,495

04 FORD Ka 1.6 Sport 3-dr Hatchback. Magnum grey with streetline dark interior, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, electric windows, alloy wheels, CD, only 40,955 miles £3,495

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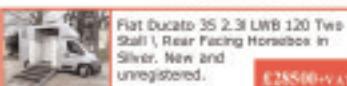
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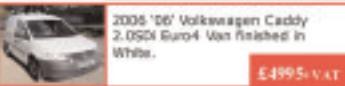
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52	AUDI TT Roadster '225'	In red with leather trim, 81,000 miles with Xenons, Bose multi CD etc.	£7,995
54	MERCEDES C230 Sport SE Auto.	Black with black leather trim, 2 owners	£5,995
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The Brynhill ladies swing into action!



The ladies enjoying St David's Day evening.

BRYNHILL ladies have held three important social events in quick succession.

On Tuesday, February 15, members gathered for 'Fixtures Night' and arranged their fixture card for the season. The hectic evening ended with a buffet.

The following Tuesday was 'Meet for Lunch' when a number of ladies enjoyed a delicious two-course lunch in the clubhouse.

On March 1, there was a ten-hole competition in the morning, and in the evening members and guests met back in the clubhouse to celebrate St David's Day.

The lounge had been appropriately decorated

and some of the ladies chose to wear Welsh costumes.

The most impressive outfit, by far, was worn by Nicci Case - her outfit, a family heirloom, is 150 years old!

Lady captain, Robbie Lee, had arranged an entertaining evening with cawl, Welsh cheeses, bara brith and Welsh cakes, followed by a Welsh-themed quiz.

Entries for the poetry competition on the subject 'The day I joined Brynhill' had been submitted the previous week, and the winners were announced:

Highly commended - Glynis Gould;

Runner-up - Vice captain Jo Kirkpatrick;

Winner - Becky Harkin.

After Becky's crowning, all three ladies were encouraged to read their work, to much acclaim.

The evening ended with Glynis Gould leading the ladies in traditional Welsh folk dancing.

All present agreed that it had been a most entertaining occasion.

Winter ten-hole competition results

JANUARY 11 - Rose Pitman, 18 points;

January 18 - Linda Gershenson, 15 points;

January 25 - Sue Holland, 20 points;

February 1 - Rose Pitman, 15 points;

February 8 - Linda Gershenson, 16 points;

March 1 - Suzanne Bonds, 16 points.

Nicci Case wearing the family heirloom

Daily Mail Foursomes

THE Brynhill pair Jane Phillips and Jo Kirkpatrick beat Jane Burrell and Wendy Motton from Wenvoe 3 and 2.

Team Competition

IN the Mail competition, the Brynhill team of Helene Cook (captain), Sam Pascoe, Gemma Evans, Jan Robertson and Robbie Lee, have played two rounds, both at home.

January 29 v St Mellons, in freezing conditions, Brynhill won 3.5 points to 1.5 points.

February 19 v St Athan, Brynhill won 3 and 2.

JP



PICTURED (left to right): Norma, Glynis and Julie in their St David's Day outfits.



Lady captain Robbie Lee (seated) and vice-captain Jo Kirkpatrick

The six-a-side league round-up



DAY Sleepers
moved to the top of the table in the Bridgend 6-a-side Premier League after Scott Crawl gave them a 3-0 victory over the ever-dangerous B Attack.

A generally tight round of games throughout the leagues, but Inter Windmill broke that sequence in division one and sit just off the summit after disposing of early strugglers Ogmore Valley Striders 6-0, largely thank to Mike Jones.

Riverside FC are hanging on in the Cardiff 6-a-side football title race after Joe Miller helped them grind down The Nutty Boys 6-0.

The same can be said for Llanfair Saints, who made sure that the chasing pack had a great week as Gareth Thomas took the eye in an 8-2 hammering of Penarth Butchers.

Anyone who wants to join the 6-a-side football leagues in South Wales can ring 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisure-leagues.net

Barry under-8s are just pipped

ON a bright, warm, sunny morning, Barry RFC under-8s played two very high scoring matches against a well-drilled Penarth side.

Both matches were played in good spirits with very good attacking rugby, and the first game saw Barry lose 7-6, with tries from J Roberts (3), Parry Griffiths (2) and J



ABOVE: Poetry winner Becky Harkin.

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GEM sport

AFTER OVERCOMING SCOTLAND, ITALY AND IRELAND... Can Wales add to French blues?

"Tough times produce tough men. Playing against the top teams in the world (from the southern hemisphere) has made us battle-hardened and that's why we were able to win today. It might not have happened before - *Shaun Edwards*.

"We matched their physicality and it's given us a lot of confidence" - *Matthew Rees*.

THE Wales defence coach and team captain were talking in the immediate aftermath of a pulsating game against Ireland at the Millennium Stadium on Saturday, that saw the home team record their third Six Nations victory in a row with another robust defensive effort.

The final scoreboard read 19-13, after a typically hard-fought match that could hardly qualify as a rugby classic - but was certainly high in drama and excitement.

This was played out in front of a fervent 74,233 capacity crowd, who would have raised the stadium roof if it hadn't been left open at the request of the Irish camp - presumably in a forlorn attempt to lower the intimidating volume of sound!

And drama there was in plenty almost from the opening whistle, as Irish skipper Brian O'Driscoll angled through a gap in the

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

defensive line for a worryingly easy try converted by outside half Ronan O'Gara.

Wales opposite number James Hook, who looked very comfortable in his favoured Number 10 role, then hit the upright with his first penalty attempt, before successfully landing two others; and newly-restored right wing Leigh Halfpenny also punished Irish transgressions with a fine long range effort.

O'Gara replied with two penalty kicks that little did we know would be the end of Irish scoring, as the teams turned round with Wales 9-13 in arrears.

Ten minutes into the second half came the controversial incident, that has since dominated the media headlines, when an Irish miskick to touch saw skipper Matthew Rees take a quick throw-in to scrum half Mike Phillips, who caught the defence napping and galloped along the touchline for a try which man-of-the-match Hook smoothly converted.

It later transpired that the throw-in (and the touchdown) should have been disallowed as a different ball had been used, to the utter consternation of the Irish camp - though in truth they had unwisely ignored the time-honoured boxing maxim - 'always face your opponent and be prepared to defend yourself at all times'.

Soon afterwards, a still smarting Ireland had a try disallowed and replacement outside half Jonathan Sexton then added to their woes with a missed penalty, before Hook applied the *coup de gras* with his final successful penalty.

The gritty home defence had to withstand one last frenzied onslaught from the men in green deep into injury time, but held out as the final whistle went, amid scenes of jubilation and Welsh camp satisfaction at a difficult job well done.

Afterwards, Wales head coach Warren Gatland had little sympathy for Irish protestations, pointing out, not without some justification, that Wales too have been on the wrong end of match officials' 'howlers' in the past that could have been game changers.

He was happy to accept a result that after France's shock 22-21 defeat by Italy, has left Wales well placed in second spot to front runners England (who scraped a narrow 22-16 win over Scotland on Sunday); and his team still have an outside chance of the championship, as they head for the last round in Paris this weekend.

Until prop Craig Mitchell went off injured in the early stages of the match against Ireland, Gatland was facing a dilemma -

whether to stick with a winning team or risk bringing back fit again Adam Jones at tight head for *Le Crunch*.

Now he has to decide whether to restore Jones, who has had 20 minutes game time, to the starting line-up - or continue with the front row that ended the match on Saturday and keep Jones in reserve on the bench.

An added complication is the injury to Shane Williams, which has deprived the little maestro of his Six Nations swansong (assuming, of course, that he holds to his declared intention to retire after the Rugby World Cup later this year).

His absence could see the return of youngster George North, when the team is announced today.

With French players licking their wounds, following their humiliating defeat to 'lowly' Italy - and a vitriolic public tongue-lashing from their head coach - the Welsh camp will be setting off in good spirits to face a drastically reshaped France.

At the same time, despite another impressively rugged defensive display, the team as a whole has yet to hit top gear, particularly when it comes to all-out attack.

Perhaps in Paris on Saturday night, we will finally see them add to French blues with the kind of flowing threequarter movements that such hard-won possession deserves!

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THIS result moved Dinas up three places to seventh in Division Two and, with at least three games in hand on all the teams above them, they are now handily placed for a promotion push.

The addition of forward Barrie Gunstone, who has scored in each of his two games, has given the side the lift, and firepower they needed for the remainder of the season.

It was the visitors who started the stronger and on five minutes Dinas keeper Dave Burnett was forced to punch a powerful shot over, with Lee Michael's header too high from the resulting corner.

Porth continued to

force Dinas to defend but on eighteen minutes, and against the run of play, keeper Burnett's long free-kick was misjudged by the Porth defence and fell for Barrie Gunstone. His neat back-heal found Gareth Tedstone, who made no mistake to score with a low shot from fifteen yards.

This seemed to deflate the visitors and with Ricki Morgan and Mike Hayward gaining the initiative in midfield, Dinas looked the more dangerous going forward.

On 24 minutes Porth's Kristian Orchard was a little ambitious with a shot from just inside his own half but a minute later Dinas were grateful to Rhodri Foote, who stuck out a foot to deflect behind a goal-bound header from Lee

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with Dinas content to hold onto what they had.

When Gareth Tedstone was brought down on the edge of the area, Barrie Gunstone's free-kick was punched away by the keeper with his defence completing the clearance.

Both managers brought on their substitutes but unfortunately for Dinas sub Carl Huntley his appearance only lasted four minutes before injury forced his replacement by Ben Dimond.

With Danny Street outstanding at the back and the strong running of Liam Jones to support the front two, Dinas were always in control and when Porth's Craig Davies was dismissed with fifteen minutes to go there was no way back for the visitors.

On a sour note, the problem of dog fouling re-appeared and a couple of piles had to be removed from the pitch before the game could start, and with more on the perimeters of the pitch this will be reported to the Vale of Glamorgan Council who are responsible for the enforcement of the warning signs at the ground.

Squad: 1. Dave Burnett, 2. Rhodri Foote, 3. Danny Street, 4. Michael Hayward, 5. Dave Penikett, 6. Jon

Carpentier, 7. Ricki Morgan, 8. Liam Jones, 9. Barry Gunstone, 10. Gareth Tedstone, 11. Ollie Dalton. Subs: 12. Ben Dimond, 14. Stephen Provis, 15. Jason Davies, 16. Carl Huntley

Next game: Welsh League Division Two, Saturday, March 19, Newport YMCA v Dinas Powys; (ko 2.30pm).

For further news and fixtures see the club's web site www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk

MORLEY WILLIAMS

Ellen's Wales call-up
ELLEN PHILLIPS of Dinas Powys football club has been named in the Welsh women's under-19 squad to play two games away against Belgium.

In addition, Jordan Guard, and Shannelle Edwards are on stand-by for the squad.

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